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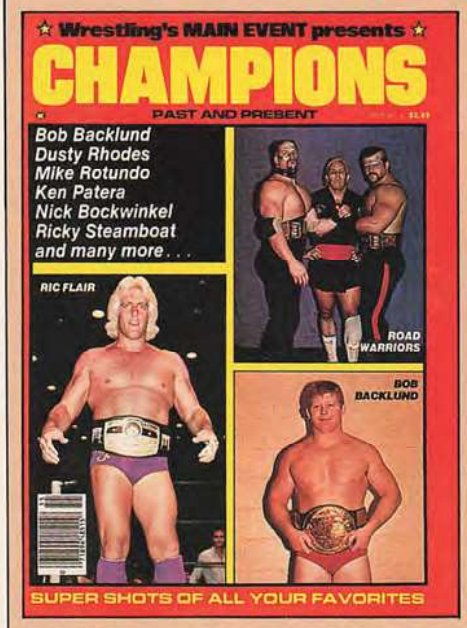

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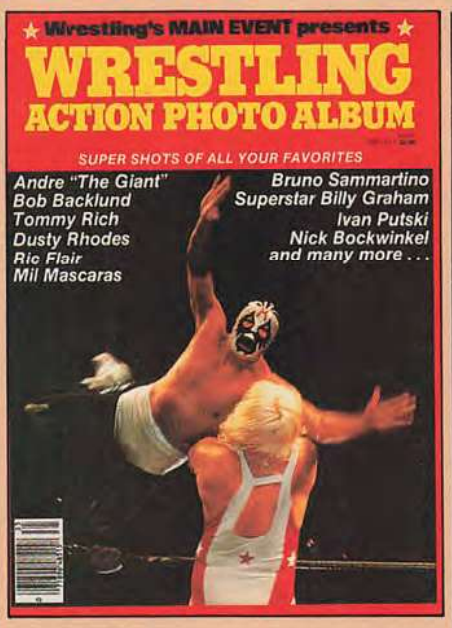

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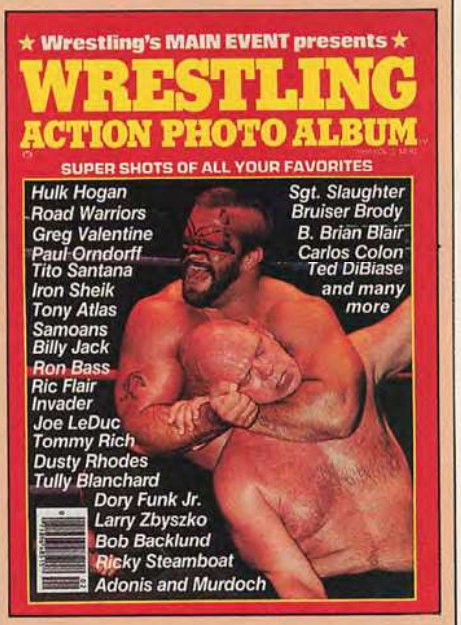

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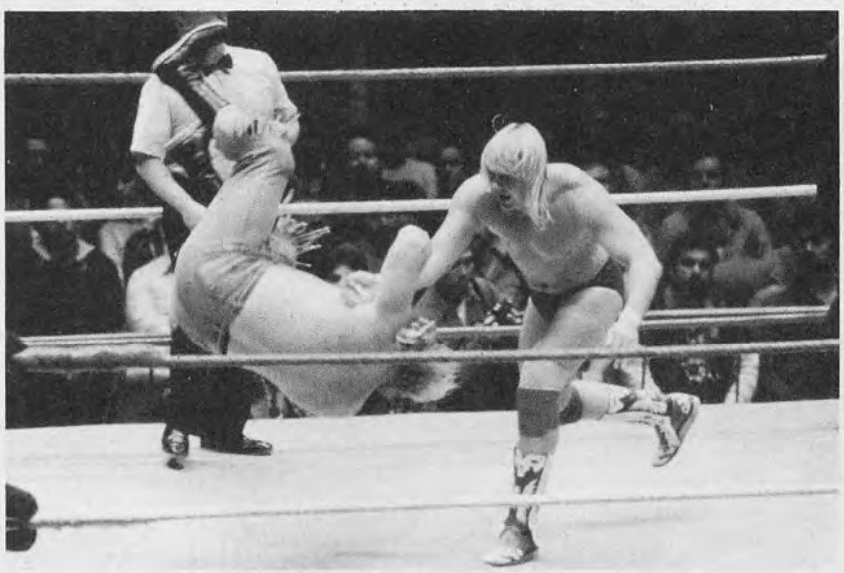

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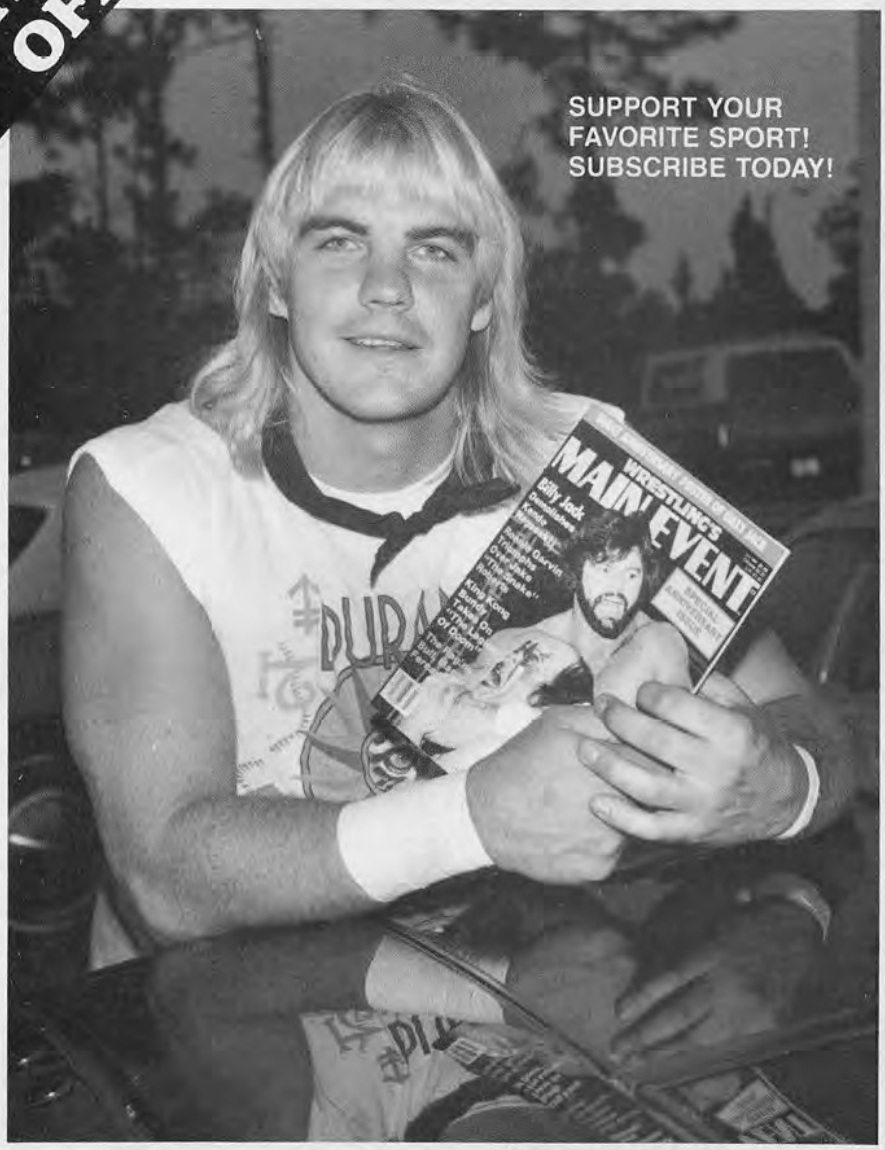

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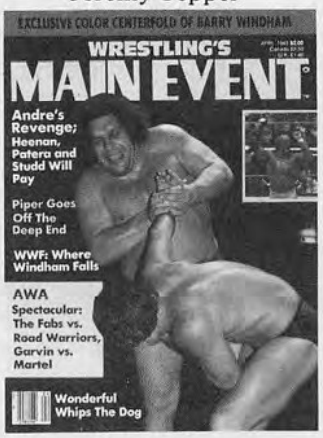

Cover and Centerfold by George Napolitano

Back Cover by Al Rivera

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

We've been putting it off and putting it off. But we can't any longer. We've just got to raise the price of **WRESTLING'S MAIN EVENT.** It's absolutely necessary. Sorry.

Our main objective is to give you, our reader, what you want—a magazine full of fast-moving features and action pictures that capture the spirit of the wrestling world with its heroes and villains (heroines and villainesses, too) in all their outrageous glory.

We want to maintain the standards of excellence you have come to expect of us. We want to continue the excitement. And that's why, though we've done everything in our power to keep costs down, we reluctantly have to raise our price by twenty-five cents.

* * *

You and your loyalty have helped make **WRESTLING'S MAIN EVENT** the number one magazine in its field. For this we thank you.

Thousands of you write to us and the vast majority of letters we receive are, praise be, enthusiastic about this publication. We are grateful for this support and encouragement.

We welcome all comments on our magazine, positive or negative, and we give serious consideration to each and every one of the suggestions we receive. We have acted on many of them and that's one of the reasons **WRESTLING'S MAIN EVENT** has such a loyal readership: You get what you ask for. Drop us a line!

* * *

As we said at the beginning, we're truly sorry about the price increase. If costs come down—and they just might—so will our price. You may be sure of that.

Publisher Cheh Low welcomes Superstar Billy Graham when Graham visited the Offices of WME in the Empire State Building.

In the meantime, you can also be sure that **WRESTLING'S MAIN EVENT** will go on entertaining you and stimulating you, and keeping you fully informed on events in the exciting, glamorous world of wrestling, one of mankind's truly great sports.

Cheh Nam Low
Publisher

LETTERS

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CENTERFOLD NOSTALGIA

Wow! Your December 1984 issue was great. Your stories were interesting and very in depth. Most magazines just talk about matches, but you go behind the scenes to get the full story. But the thing that really caught my eye was the full color centerfold of Jimmy Snuka vs. Roddy Piper. I was the Meadowlands to see that match and the poster sparked some fond memories.

Once again thanks for a great issue.

Andrew Rose
Wilton, Conn.

THINKS STUDD'S A DUD AND FREEBIRD'S CHICKEN

I think you have the best wrestling magazine in the world. We always look forward to getting your magazine in the mail. Our family enjoys watching wrestling on TV and in the arenas. Some of our favorite wrestlers are the "Legend Killer" Rowdy Roddy Piper, Mr. Wonderful Paul Orndorf, the incredible Hulk Hogan, and Sgt. Slaughter.

I would also like to say that John Studd is the biggest wimp in the world. The man may bench 700 pounds but if his guts could bench he wouldn't lift 50 pounds.

The man says he's never been slammed. Well, I've seen him slammed, pinned and scared away. And if he doesn't shut up, I'll slam him and become 15,000 dollars richer.

I am also making a request that the so called Fabulous Freebirds go back where they came from and take Dave Dog (Wolf) with them.

Always wrestling fans
Jim and Jason Jespersen
San Louis, Obispo, CA

BRING BACK FLORIDA WRESTLING. AHORA!

I have just finished reading your January issue and Julie Caballero's complaint about the cancellation of CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA. I too must agree WWF reruns are boring and tasteless. Instead of wasting Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 pm on channel 47's WWF reruns I could be watching Johnny Carson. So if Ch. 47 doesn't

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put CWF wrestling back on the air it's Heerrreees Johnny for me. Do you have any suggestions on how we can get CWF wrestling back on the air.

Bill Levy
Queens, N.Y.

P.S. could you please have a story and poster of Ronnie Garvin in your next issue.

Ed. Note: Write to Ch. 47 WNJU-TV, 39 Industrial Ave., Teterborough, N.J. 07608 and have your friends write asking for the return of Florida wrestling. Also you'll find a story on Ronnie in our Mar. 84 issue. And Johnny Carson couldn't body slam my grandmother.

MORE ON DUSTY

I am a big wrestling fan. Wrestling's MAIN EVENT is my favorite wrestling magazine. It gives you color pinups of your favorite wrestlers.

I am a true Dusty Rhodes fan. You have everything a magazine has to offer but I never see anything on Dusty. I'm sorry to say I missed your April 83 issue which I understand has a color pin up of Dusty. In future issues could you please put some stories and color pin ups of my favorite wrestler.

Shannon Newell
Albany Georgia

Ed. Note: Dusty's million dollar match against Ric Flair is our cover story in Mar. 83's issue.

WWF STINKS

I am writing about the worst wrestling in the world. I am of course speaking of the WWF. The WWF is trying to take over the greatest wrestling in the world, the NWA.

I was wondering if they're going to put any NWA wrestling on free TV channels because the WWF wrestling we now only have to watch is the pits.

Joe Tomasik
Buffalo, N.Y.

Ed. Note: PRO WRESTLING USA can now be seen on Channel 11 Saturday morning from 11 am-12 noon in the New York City area and on cable stations.

JIMMY SNUKA vs. SIGMUND FREUD

In your November 1984 issue of WME you did a great article on the feud between Jimmy Sunka and Roddy Piper entitled THE FLY SWATTER, PIPER THE LEGEND KILLER.

I also think that Mico Lugo is crazy for thinking that Snuka is brain damaged. Jimmy is one of the most popular wrestlers in the world. His feuds with Lou Albano, Ray Stevens and the Magnificent Muraco were fantastic. The Superfly won these feuds without any brain damage.

Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka

Jimmy Snuka will also run Roddy Piper out of the WWF and soon he will take Greg Valentine's belt too.

Adam Eisenberg
Port Jefferson Station, N.Y.

Ed. Note: Mico couldn't be reached for comment at his room at the Daisy Brite Sanitarium.

TERRIFIC TULLY

Along with thousands of other Tully Blanchard fans, I sincerely appreciate your article on him in your October issue ("TULLY BLANCHARD FINALLY GAINS RESPECT"). He has held the Mid Atlantic TV championship for the longest time that I ever remember a wrestler holding it. Besides this he has offered $10,000 to any wrestler who could pin him within twenty minutes or less. At times the competition has gotten so dull that he has actually lowered the standard time limit from twenty minutes to ten! In the Mid Atlantic area where titles seem to change hands every day, it's nice to know that at least one champion truly deserves his title. Again, thanks for the article and try to include him in your ratings. In all fairness, you should put him at fifth or sixth. Also, is there a Tully Blanchard fan club? If not, I would be interested in starting one. Any info would be appreciated.

David Randall
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Ed. Note: We have no knowledge of the existence of a Tully Blanchard Fan Club.

HAIL TO THE WWF

It's obvious that the World Wrestling Federation and Titan Sports, Inc. have taken it upon themselves to dominate the sport of professional wrestling, and rightly so.

I live in California, and after seeing a total of *three* different NWA promotions "burn out" and fail in my state, I'm glad to see the WWF making its move to control wrestling on the TV stations I watch. And with that, bringing thousands of new fans into the sport and gaining a new respect for professional wrestling from people who watch the classy and well-edited Tuesday Night Titans and All-American Wrestling television programs.

The WWF is the only organization that cared enough to bring California some top-flight mat-action. I'm tired of hearing Georgia and Florida fans complaining about the Titan take-over when these same fans get to watch three or four different promotions at one time.

Please don't get me wrong. I believe that the NWA and AWA are extremely well-respected organizations. But . . . just because they have a lot of veteran big-shots running these associations doesn't mean they *don't* make mistakes.

Nito Gomez
Salinas, California

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WRESTLING'S ROUND-UP

Welcome to another edition of Wrestling's Main Event. 1985 looks like it will be just as wild and exciting on the wrestling front as was 1984. AWA World's champion Rick Martel has looked exceptional. The popular Martel has all the moves to be one of the best champions in the sport. . . .

WWF champion Hulk Hogan has been having his problems lately. During 1984 the Hulk had trouble with Big John Studd, Ken Patera, Nikolai Volkoff and even the Iron Sheik. If the Hulk is going to last out 1985 with this title in tact, the big man better alter his style somewhat. If not, Hulk Hogan might find himself without a title. . . .

NWA World's champion Ric Flair had a busy 1984 and already he's having quite a hectic 1985. Every champion is susceptible to lapses and if the NWA title holder is not careful, Big Bruiser Brody might be the one to dethrone him.

Kevin, Kerry and Mike Von Erich have been making appearances in St. Louis. In fact, Kerry defeated the Missouri State champion, Crusher Blackwell in a non-title match in the Keil Auditorium. The Von Erichs have always done very well in the Gateway City and have a large contingent of fans there. . . .

Don Kernoodle and Ivan Koloff are now feuding in the Mid Atlantic area. Cowboy Ron Bass and Bob Backlund are also at odds there. Bass and Backlund had quite a match on Pro Wrestling USA and if J.J. Dillon hadn't interfered on Bass' behalf the Cowboy would have gone down to defeat. . . .

Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin would love to get a title shot against AWA champion, Rick Martel. . . .

Baron Von Raschke was the honorary AWA "Santa Claus" on a recent Pro Wrestling USA telecast. . . .

National champion, Ronnie Garvin still looks good. . . .

Superstar Billy Graham is now

Mike Von Erich is wrestling in St. Louis.

Andre is regrouping in the WWF.

photos by George Napolitano

Captain Lou poses with long time fan Shelly Wrobel.

Manager Jimmy Hart is creating havoc in Georgia.

wrestling in the Mid Atlantic area. . . .

Satanical Kevin Sullivan and his wench, the Fallen Angel, have been casting their evil spell in the Southwest. . . .

Killer Brooks is headed for the Caribbean after a lengthy stay in Texas. . . .

The Sheepherders are the WWC tag team championship. . . .

Manager Jimmy Hart continues to upset everyone in Georgia Championship Wrestling. . . . Iron Mike Sharpe has looked good in his appearances in the Mid Atlantic. . . .

Boogie Woogie Man Jimmy Valiant is a frequent partner of Jerry "The King" Lawler in Memphis. . . .

Carlos Colon has been busy defending his Universal belt in the Caribbean, Texas and the New England states. . . .

Chris Adams has become one of the most hated men ever to appear in the World Class area. . . .

The Youngbloods have been wrestling in Florida and the Central states. . . .

Terry Gordy and Killer Kahn are still feuding in the World Class area. . . .

Buddy Roberts will soon be rejoining Freebird buddy, Michael Hayes in Florida. Can Terry Gordy be far behind?. . . .

Jesse Barr has really come on strong in the Sunshine state. Barr always had the potential and lately he's been wrestling just the way people predicted he could. . . .

King Kong Bundy and Crusher Blackwell are still at odds in the AWA. . . .

Ric Flair's number one challenger is now Bruiser Brody.

The Road Warriors and the Fabulous Ones are still feuding all over the country. . . .

Abdullah the Butcher gone soft? The one time wildman is now loved in the Caribbean.

After a year's lay off Terry Funk is back in action and looking better than ever. Don't count out Funk when discussing possible NWA title contenders. . . .

Jack and Jerry Brisco have really looked impressive in their WWF battles. . . .

Sgt. Slaughter may soon be headed to the NWA. If he does the good Sarge will probably tangle with the feared Russians, Ivan and Nikita Koloff. . . .

Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo are both gunning for Greg Valentine's Intercontinental title not to mention Adonis and Murdoch's tag-team title. Who will get the belt first? Don't count out Greg Valentine that fast. . . .

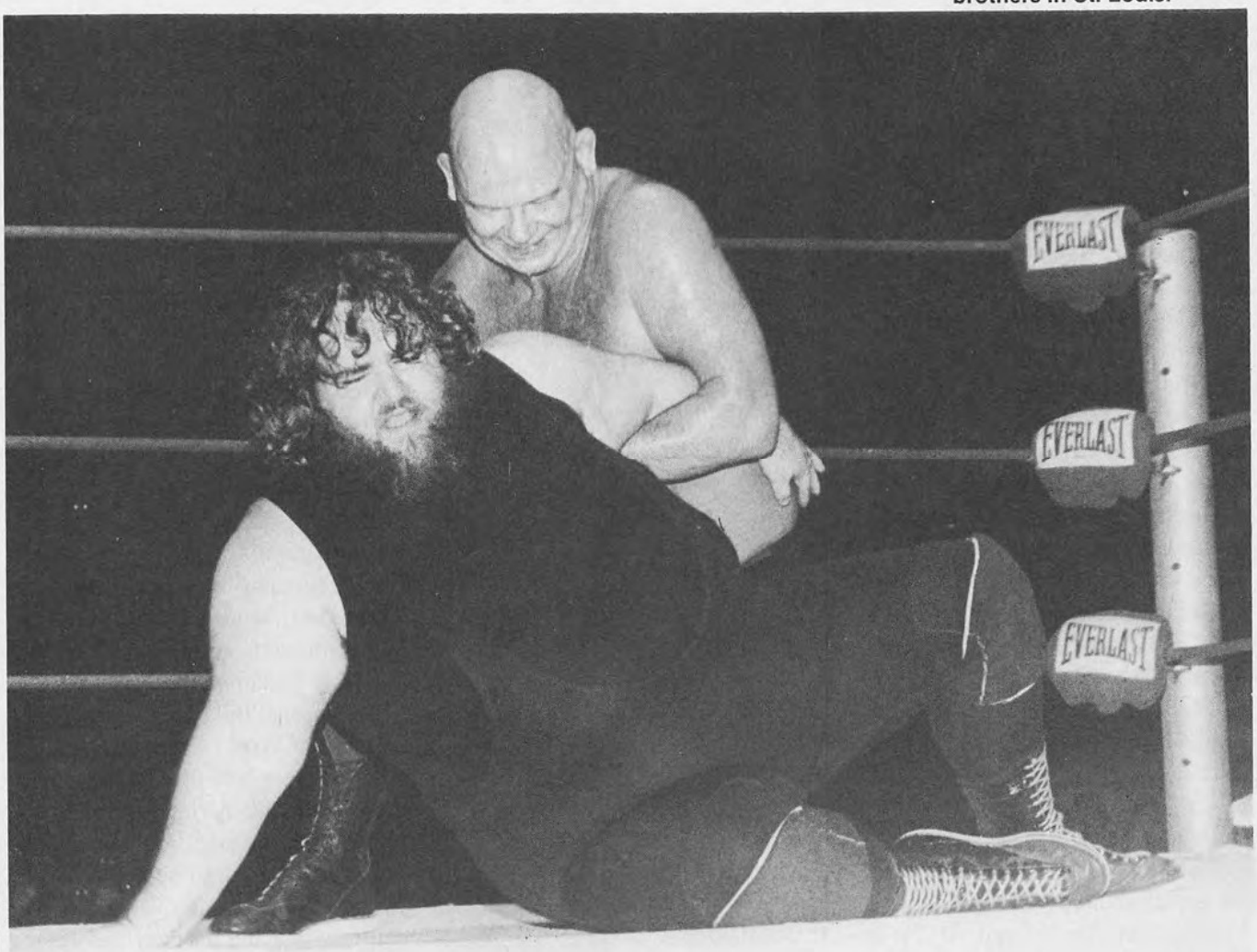
Sensational Billy Jack is now wrestling in the World Class area. . . .

Ken Patera better be careful, Andre the Giant is after his hide and when the big man sets his sights on someone he doesn't give up until he gets his man. Andre is still fuming over his haircut courtesy of Patera, Studd and Bobby Heenan. . . .

Lord Humongous is the top man in

Has Abdullah changed his ways?

Kevin Von Erich is wrestling with his brothers in St. Louis.



Jerry Blackwell and Baron Von Raschke are out to get the Road Warriors.

Killer Brooks is now headed for the Caribbean.

the Soutwest circuit. . . .

The Rock-n-Roll Express and the Midnight Express continue to feud in the Mid South area. . . .

The Fantastics are the World Class Champions. . . .

Bobby Jaggers is feuding with Rip Oliver on the Northwest Circuit. . . .

Tom Pritchard and Jerry Grey are the Pacific Northwest Tag Team champions. . . .

"Magnum T.A" Terry Allen has become a top attraction in the Mid Atlantic area. . . .

Wahoo McDaniel continues to wear the U.S. belt in the Mid Atlantic territory while the "Superbrat" Tully Blanchard's hold on the NWA television title remains very secure. . . .

Vinnie Valentino continues to improve in the Southwest circuit. . . .

Al Perez and Joe Savoldi have formed a fantastic duo in the Caribbean.

"Mr. Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert is in the middle of a raging feud with Tommy Rich in Mid America. . . .

The stars of Pro Wrestling USA will soon be embarking on a world tour. On Feb. 24 in the Meadowlands Arena the combined AWA-NWA card will be presented. This one promises to be one of the wildest events of the year. If you live in the New York-New Jersey area make it a point to go to the Meadowlands to witness this fantastic night of action. Expected to see action are NWA World's champion Rick Flair, AWA champion Rick Martel "The American Dream", Dusty Rhodes, Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin, Superbrat Tully Blanchard, AWA tag team champions The Road Warriors, the Fabulous Ones, and many, many others.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Wrestling's MAIN EVENT. Look for us again on the newsstand next month□

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MATCH OF THE MONTH

WONDERFUL WHIPS

On Monday, Dec. 10, 1984 the Brendan Byrne arena of the fabled Meadowlands in East Rutherford, New Jersey was brimming with excitement in anticipation of the main event. The match that everyone was waiting for was the third encounter between those two titans of the WWF, Champion Hulk Hogan against Big John Studd. I missed the first and second bouts between these two, but read about them in great detail in Wrestling's MAIN EVENT. It was those articles that prompted my trip to New Jersey.

Though billed as the main event, the match that thrilled me was the one pitting Paul Orndorff against The Junk Yard Dog. The scene was Piper's Pit and the main event played second fiddle to this match. Paul Orndorff is constantly whining about wanting more competition in the area. I think that Mr. Orndorff's complaints are unjustified. The competition in this area is top notch. It's not the NWA, but it's very good, and Paul has done nothing, and I mean nothing to prove the contrary. He's beaten Bellomo, S.D. Jones, etc., etc. which doesn't amount to a hill of beans. But on this night Paul made me eat my words.

The WWF on this night had pitted none other than The Junk Yard Dog, who is 6′3″ and weights 280 lbs. and claimed to be hell bent on thumping Paula to the canvas. The Dog wanted to prove to all his fans that they were justified in calling Paul, Paula. "I don't like Orndorff. I don't enjoy watching him Pile Drive wrestlers like Rudy Diamond and then walk away laughing. I don't like the gestures that he makes toward the fans as he is approaching the mat. This Dog's gonna whip Paula like a dog."

Despite JYD's threats, Ordorff whipped The Dog like a dog. What a beating!!! The match started out with the fans cheering every single move by The Dog. Orndorff was in retreat and used the tactic of staying out on the floor and annoying The Dog. With Bobby "The Brain" Heenan giving him the orders, Paul simply waited for some of the fire to leave The Dog. Finally Paul made his way back into the ring; but The Dog, still on fire, launched his major attack. Everything was then going great for The Dog and the fans. It did not look too promising for The Brain and Mr. Orndorff. Then out of nowhere Paul finally showed that he can wrestle and delivered a perfect German Suplex. He then took the stunned Dog and lifted him high

Mr. Wonderful comes down hard and heavy on a prone Junk Yard dog.

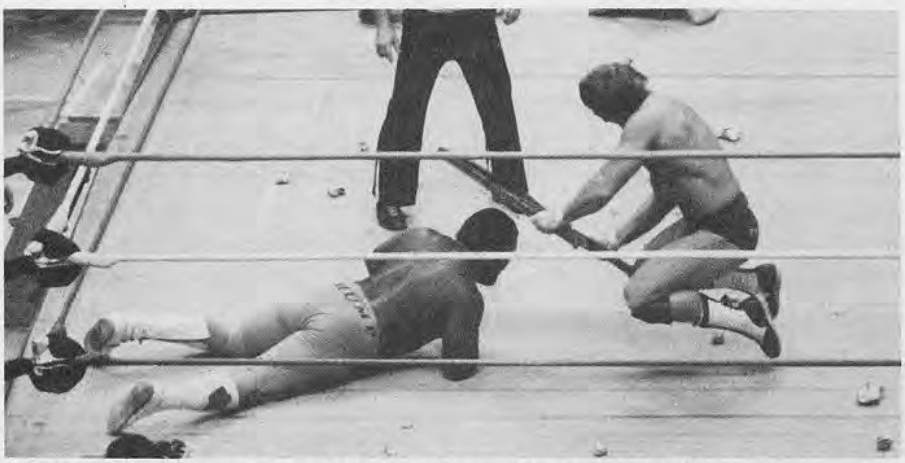
Paul Orndorff locks up against the Junk Yard Dog in a Test Of Strength.

JYD pins Mr. Wonderful in a Small Package.

by Mico Lugo

THE DOG

into the air, turned him around and delivered a devastating Piledriver. That move was the beginning of the end for The Dog. From then on, it was strictly down hill for JYD. From there a few knee drops to the skull, mixed in with a flurry of elbows to the throat. A reverse chin lock and some devastating blows to the back had the Dog all but out on his feet. The Dog retaliated with one of his last moves which was a fist to the throat of Paul, as Paul jumped off the turnbuckle. Paul regrouped quickly and delivered his Piledriver so fast that I almost missed it. The Dog was getting destroyed, but somehow managed to get up, but Paul threw him out of the ring and was bringing him back in the hard way with a Body Slam, when all of a sudden The Dog wrapped up Paul in an inside cradle and won the match. The Dog was proclaimed the winner though he was still staggered. Paul, now even more enraged, continued where he left off. He threw The Dog out of the ring and smashed his head into the steel post. Then he tossed the Dog back into the ring and hit him over the head with a chair that he picked up at ringside. As the blood was flowing from the head of The Dog, Mr. Orndorff left the ring with his manager laughing.



Wonderful pounds the victorious Dog with a handy folding chair.

Orndorff seems to have finished JYD with a devastating Pile Driver.

The Dog won the war on paper but not in the eyes of the witnesses at the Meadowlands. There has to be a rematch between these two guys to settle this score. The Dog was so badly beaten he couldn't make it out to Piper's Pit, so Sal Bellomo went out in his place and made a complete fool of himself. It's a good thing that The Dog made it back out in time to rescue the overmatched Bellomo or he might not be alive to wrestle again. With his head wrapped in a turban like a bandage, JYD stormed into the ring swinging that lethal chain that had Piper and Bob Orton scurrying for safety.

Other bouts: Hogan defended his title by body slamming John Studd out of the ring and Studd did not make it back before the count. Snuka and Orton were both disqualified. George Wells defeated Charlie Fulton. Patera defeated Jim Powers. Playboy Buddy Rose defeated Jose Rivera by using Jake, The Snake, Roberts' DDT. Bobby Heenan defeated S.D. Jones. Brutus Beefcake defeated Sal Bellomo. John Valiant defeated Steve Lambordi. And the WWF Ladies Tag Team Champions Velvet McIntyre and Desiree Petersen retain their title by turning back the challenge of Penny Mitchell and Peggy Patterson. □

STUDD AND PATERA:
A Brutal Assault on Andre the Giant

by Mike Kimmel

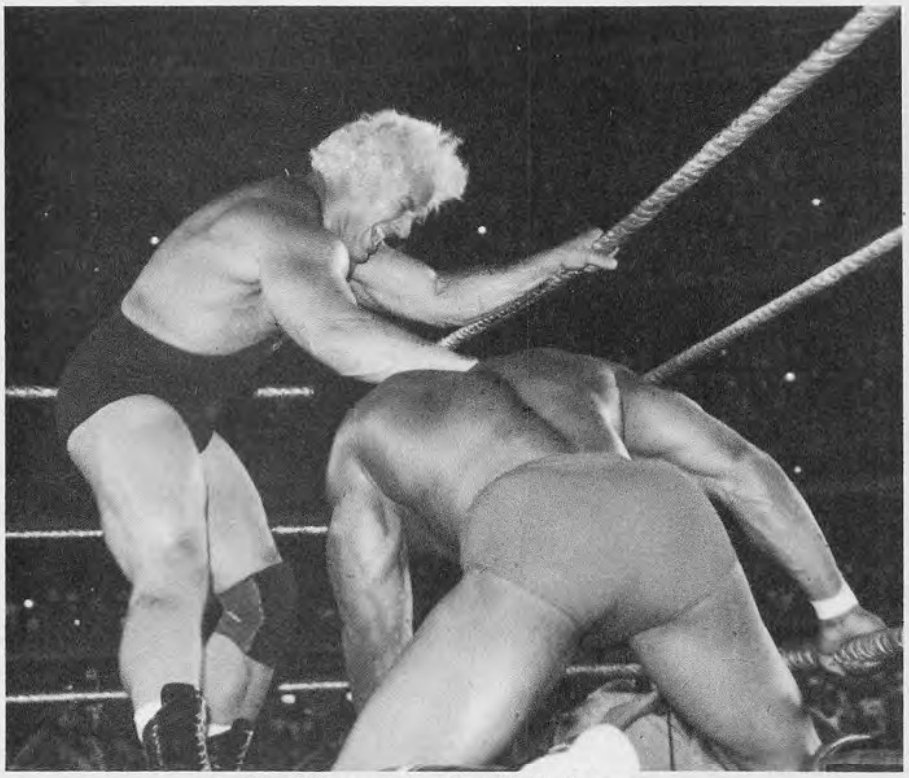
Wrestling experts generally agree that Andre the Giant is all but indestructible. When the eighth wonder of the world steps over that top ring rope, the question in everyone's mind is not "Will he win?", but rather "How long will it take?". He is by far the largest man in the sport and with few exceptions has soundly trounced each and every man who might be considered a threat to his unbroken winning streak. Andre's mythological physical size along with the fact that he has never been pinned places him in a unique class above his contemporaries.

For this reason, the Giant's recent televised brutalization at the hands of Big John Studd and Ken Patera was an event that cannot be forgotten or forgiven. Andre and his most recent tag team partner, Special Delivery Jones had been doing quite well in their main event battle with Patera and Studd. They seemed to work well together, and the combination of their highly contrasting wrestling styles had the blond haired strongmen confused and disoriented.

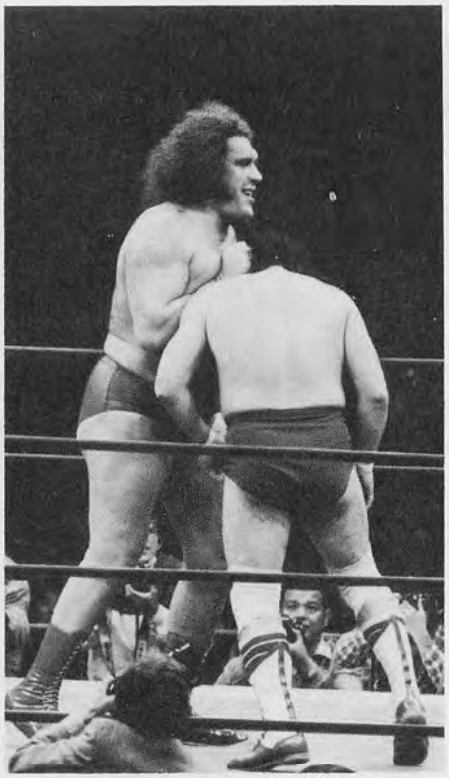
The turning point of the match occurred when Jones muscled Patera over to Andre's corner. S.D. then swung a big right hand towards Patera, who alertly ducked it. S.D. Jones was sent flying over the top rope in a devastating back body drop straight down to the concrete floor. He cracked his head on the metal gate as he hit, rendering

photos by George Napolitano , Al Rivera

Swede Hansan cautions Andre.



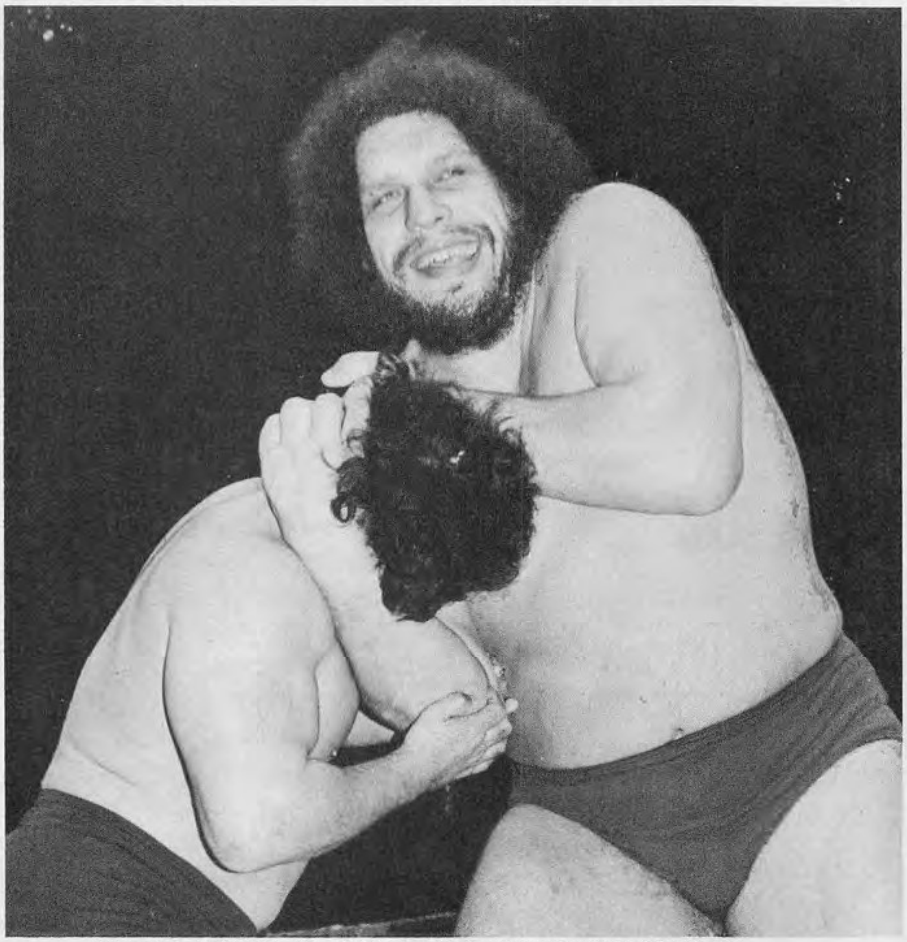
Ken Patera puts away S. D. Jones.



Andre grabs Tiger Toguchi by the hair.

him incapacitated and unable to return to the ring.

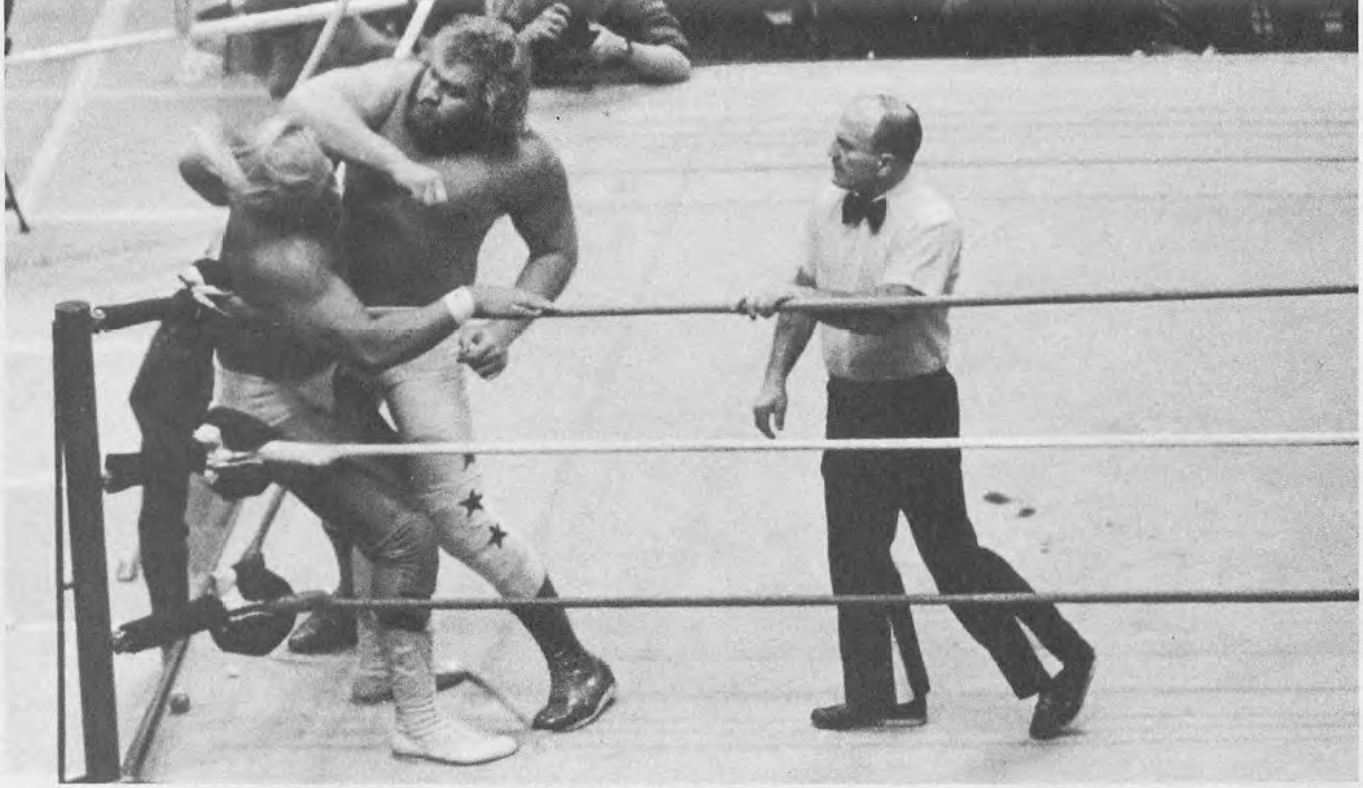
Left alone, Andre battled valiantly against two of the strongest men in the history of professional sports. Trapping Patera in a corner, Andre proceeded to slam his tremendous bulk backwards into the Olympic strongman. Once again, however, Patera's presence of mind turned the match around as he rammed his knee into the small of Andre's back. Patera then climbed the ring ropes and pounced down with a crushing forearm to the Giant's neck.



A bearded Andre gleefully applies a headlock to Mr. Saito.

At this point, Studd entered the ring illegally to join the attack. A merciless onslaught was then directed upon the Giant as Studd and Patera proceeded to hammer away. The deadly duo joined together to raise the big man up for a devastating bodyslam. Patera applied his murderous Full Nelson and Studd continued to pummel their outmatched foe with crushing forearm blows. A coldly efficient machine, Patera and Studd next took turns crashing down with thunderous elbow smashes on the Giant, who was now flat on his back and completely unconscious.

Only then did manager Bobby Heenan (seated at ringside) step into the ring to hand Big John a pair of concealed scissors. Patera hoisted Andre to his knees and held him in place with a Full Nelson. Studd then brought the shears to Andre's head and proceeded



Studd pounds Hogan.

to cut off big locks of the Giant Frenchman's hair. S.D. Jones had somewhat recovered by this time and attmepted to enter the ring, only to be greeted by Bobby Heenan's well placed boots.

In seconds, the dirty deed was done. Andre the Giant lay face down on the ring mat strewn with his long hair. This was one of the cruelest, most senseless acts in WWF history and one which will live forever in the mind of the victim. To be horribly humiliated and degraded in this fashion is far more than the gentle giant can be expected to tolerate. The actions of Studd and Patera may well have touched off what will be the most savage feud we have seen to date.

The awesome presence of Andre fills the ring.

It seems obvious that this entire humiliation of Andre the Giant was engineered by Heenan to further the career of his client, Big John Studd. Heenan's ultimate goal? Hulk Hogan's WWF belt and the earning power it commands. Ken Patera seems to have been a pawn in Heenan's battle plan, brought in to assist in the destruction of Andre's dignity and reputation. Patera should realize, however, that the wrath of the Giant will also be directed his way.

Complicating this matter is the fact that Studd has also recently teamed with Russian powerhouse Nikolai Volkoff (against S.D. Jones in fact). In the past, Volkoff has been managed by Captian Lou Albano, who is currenty handling Patera's contract. Should Volkoff himself enter this wild melee, will he bring the Iron Shiek with him? Can Sgt. Slaughter, a frequent tag partner of Andre's, then be far behind? The eventual outcome of this initial act of cowardice is anyone's guess. The more we may wonder about its conclusion, the more confusing it seems to get. □

Andre puts a Wristlock on Tatsumi Fujinami.

TAG TEAM WAR IN AWA:
The Fabs Battle the Road Warriors

by George Napolitano

The current feud between the Fabulous Ones and the AWA Tag Team Champion Road Warriors, led by Precious Paul Ellering, has provided fans with many exciting matches to watch as well as many heartaches for both Stan Lane and Steve Kiern. They have bravely faced the champs on many occasions and always seem to come out on the short end due to the outside interference of Ellering.

Even though they have won by disqualification and the record books will record these wins, it frustrates the Fabs in that these victories have not given them the championship belts. All they have to show for their efforts are bruised bodies and bruised egos at their failure to defeat the champs.

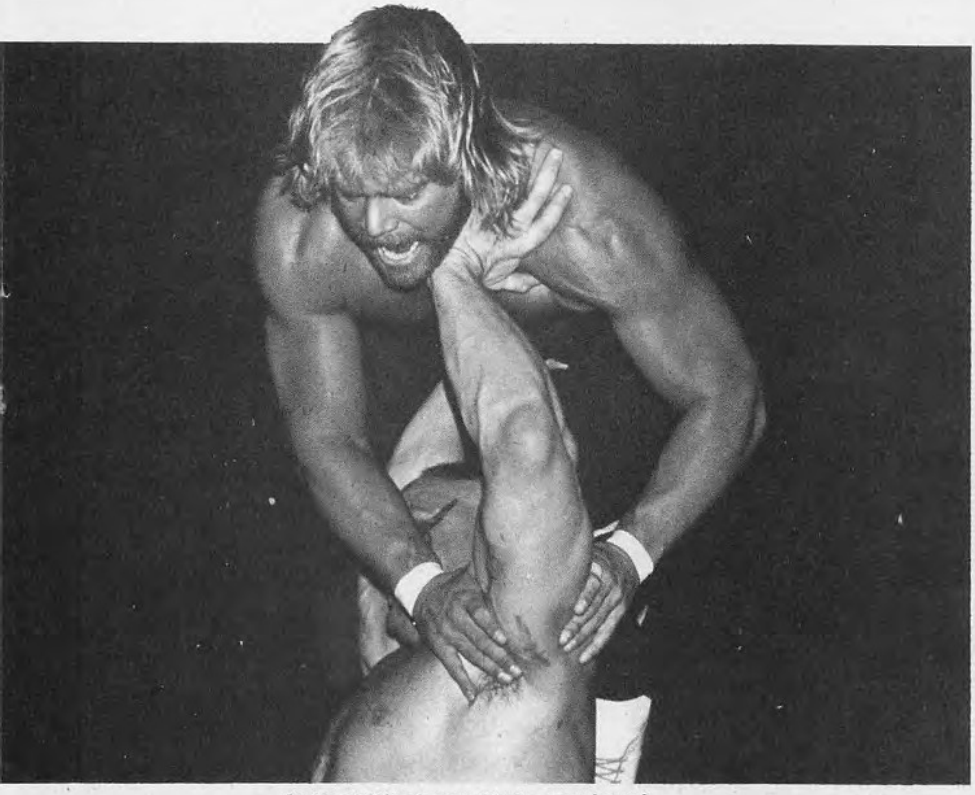
Their fustration at not being champions did not start with the entrance of the Raod Warriors into the AWA. After the Fabs were in the area for a while and were building up an impressive winning streak leading toward a showdown with the former champion Sheiks, their plans were derailed by the upset victory over the Sheiks by Crusher and Baron Von Raschke. At the time of the Sheik's loss, the Fabs were being lined up for some future matches against them which would have probably led to the championship, but then the situation changed.

They took this setback in stride as they continued winning matches in hopes of getting a shot at the new champs and possibly beating them. That plan went awry when the Warriors stormed the area and quickly captured the titles in a controversial match which set up the current situation. From the start of the Road Warrior's reign many fans thought that the Fabs would beat them quickly and finally attain their championship goals.

To offset the Warrior's size and strength advantage, the Fabs counter with years of tag team experience, speed, agility and superior scientific skills. The combinaiton of both teams' abilities makes their matches exciting as they turn from wrestling matches to all out brawls with all four men fighting in the ring at the same time. Whenever the Fabs gain an advantage Ellering joins the battle enabling his

photos by Mike Allen

Animal continues to punish Lane.



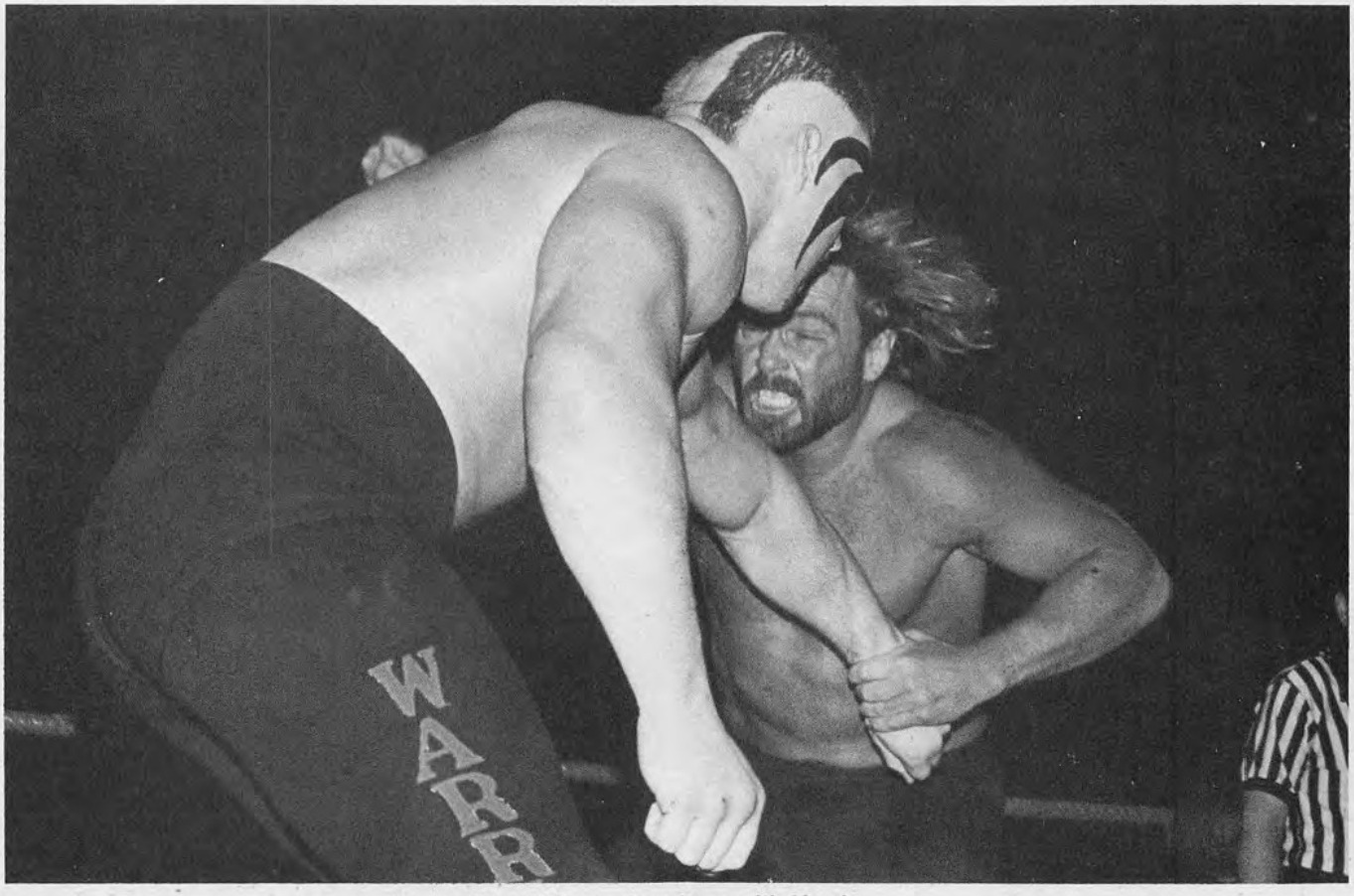
Animal lifts Lane high over head.

team to gain a tainted victory or hold on to their belts as a result of a disqualification.

The presence of a manager at ringside is nothing new to Lane and Kiern. They battled the constant interference of Bobby Heenan in some of their matches before he was suspended and left the AWA. These past experiences taught them what to expect when their opponents use a manager to help out at ringside. These lessons were well learned when battling the Warriors because keeping a watchful eye on Ellering is as important as any tactic employed against them.

After being frustrated at not winning the belts, something they blame directly on Ellering, they decided to take on a manager of their own who would advise them, train them and also keep Ellering in check while they wrestle the Warriors. The man they chose was none other than the Crusher, one of Ellering's most hated enemies, and also one angry man since he and Von Raschke lost the belts to the Warriors. Referring to the champs as the "Road Runners and Paul Ellerat" this alliance of youth and experience have vowed to make the new year a rough one for the champs.

At first the Fabs used Crusher as an advisor, someone they turned to when they needed helpful hints about how to battle the Warriors and control Ellering. When it became clear that quiet observation from the sidelines was not



Steve Kiern mixes it up with Hawk.

Kiern acknowledges the fans' encouragement as he clashes with Animal.

the answer, Crusher was given the role of active manager. He was now dressed in suspenders and a bow tie and was called a "Fab" as he sat at ringside watching the matches and encouraging his friends while also keeping Ellering on the run whenever he tried to interfere.

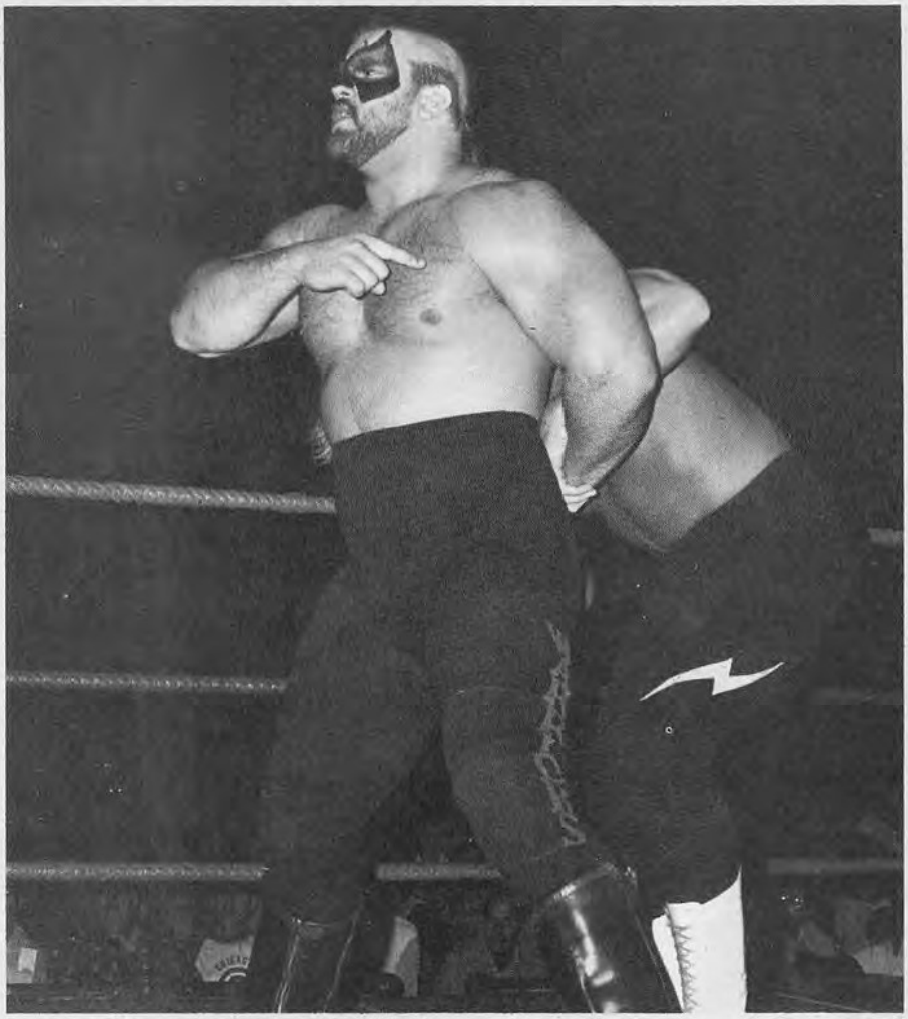
This new combination made one of their first appearances in Milwaukee, Crusher's hometown, recently and proved that they may be able to defeat the champs. As both teams battled inside the ring all eyes were on Crusher as he chased Ellering around the ring many times to keep him from becoming part of the fight. Crusher's antics angered both Animal and Hawk prompting them to severly beat Stan Lane and almost pin him a few times.

When they failed to defeat the Fabs they became more angry which allowed Lane to tag off to Kiern who stormed into the ring and quickly took control punching and kicking both Warriors. This flurry of activity soon forced Ellering to try to interfere to help his men out before they lost their titles. Ellering's entrance drew Crusher into the ring, armed with a metal folding chair, and soon it was an all out war as all six men fought until the referee declared the match "no contest" due to outside interference.

After the match, the Fabs and Crusher challenged the Warriors and Ellering to a six man tag match to try and settle their differences in the ring, once and for all. They were backed up by the AWA. This angered Ellering who wants nothing to do with such a match because, as he claims, managers are not meant to wrestle. Calling Crusher an "idiot" and a "peon" Ellering refused to ever get into the ring during the match. He plans to stand on the ring apron and watch his men do the fighting while he directs them.

If pre-match interviews tell anything, it looks like the advantage has swung to the side of the Fabs as their strategy is upsetting Ellering and making him very upset at the thought of having to wrestle them. The more he complains the more it becomes clear that he may be playing right into their hands by losing his cool and upsetting his men.

Since the matches will take place sometime in the future it may well be that 1985 will be the year that the Fabulous Ones finally win the World Championship. With all of their hard work and planning it would seem a fitting end to a long struggle to gain fame, and well deserved respect. □



Animal complains to the ref about the hold.

color photo by George Napolitano

Terry Funk is poised and ready to begin his comeback.

TERRY FUNK

BACK IN ACTION AND BETTER THAN EVER.

by George Napolitano

After a year's lay-off former NWA World's Heavyweight champion Terry Funk is back in action and has set his sights on once again owning the most prestigious title in the sport. "It's great to be back!" Funk said, the day after his comeback bout in St. Louis' Keil Auditorium. "I wasn't sure whether these old bones were gonna make it or not but everything worked out just fine. I only hope I'm not sore tomorrow though. I never knew wrestling could take so much out of you."

Until his "retirement" Terry Funk was one of the premier stars in the sport. The big man from Amarillo, Texas had held practically every regional title in the U.S. plus scores of titles in such exotic ports as Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, and Japan. But the grueling demands of the profession both inside and outside the ring eventually took its toll on Terry. One night while wrestling in Tokyo his knees buckled under him. This wasn't the first time the cowboy knew he was in serious trouble. Several friends quickly rushed to the ring to aid the stricken Texan and with their help Terry was carefully carried back to his dressing room. His knee cap had been shattered. His once glittering career seemed to be at an end. "Ever since I can remember I've had trouble with my knees," Terry admitted.

"It started when I was playing football in High school and it got progressively worse. But I would just grin and bear it. There were times when I could barely walk but once I climbed through the ropes and into the ring I would go at it like nothing was wrong at all. The next day I would be sore as heck but I never let it bother me. Ask Junior (Ed. note—his brother Dory Funk Jr.) how many times I said I was going to quit. This was always a running joke with the boys but after Tokyo I swore that was it. But the guys said that it couldn't last. The boys even used to bet when I was going to come back but I fooled them. Actually, I booked myself a few times across the country but when I realized what I did, I cancelled out. I simply wasn't ready. I wanted to get back into the ring but my body wasn't ready yet for all the abuse."

During his year in exile from the mat wars Terry spent countless hours developing a screen play for Warner Brothers. Terry is no stranger to Hollywood having starred with Sylvestor Stallone in the movie, Paradise Alley and now the Texan feels he could be a major force in the motion picture industry. Who knows, maybe he could. "I've always been intrigued with the

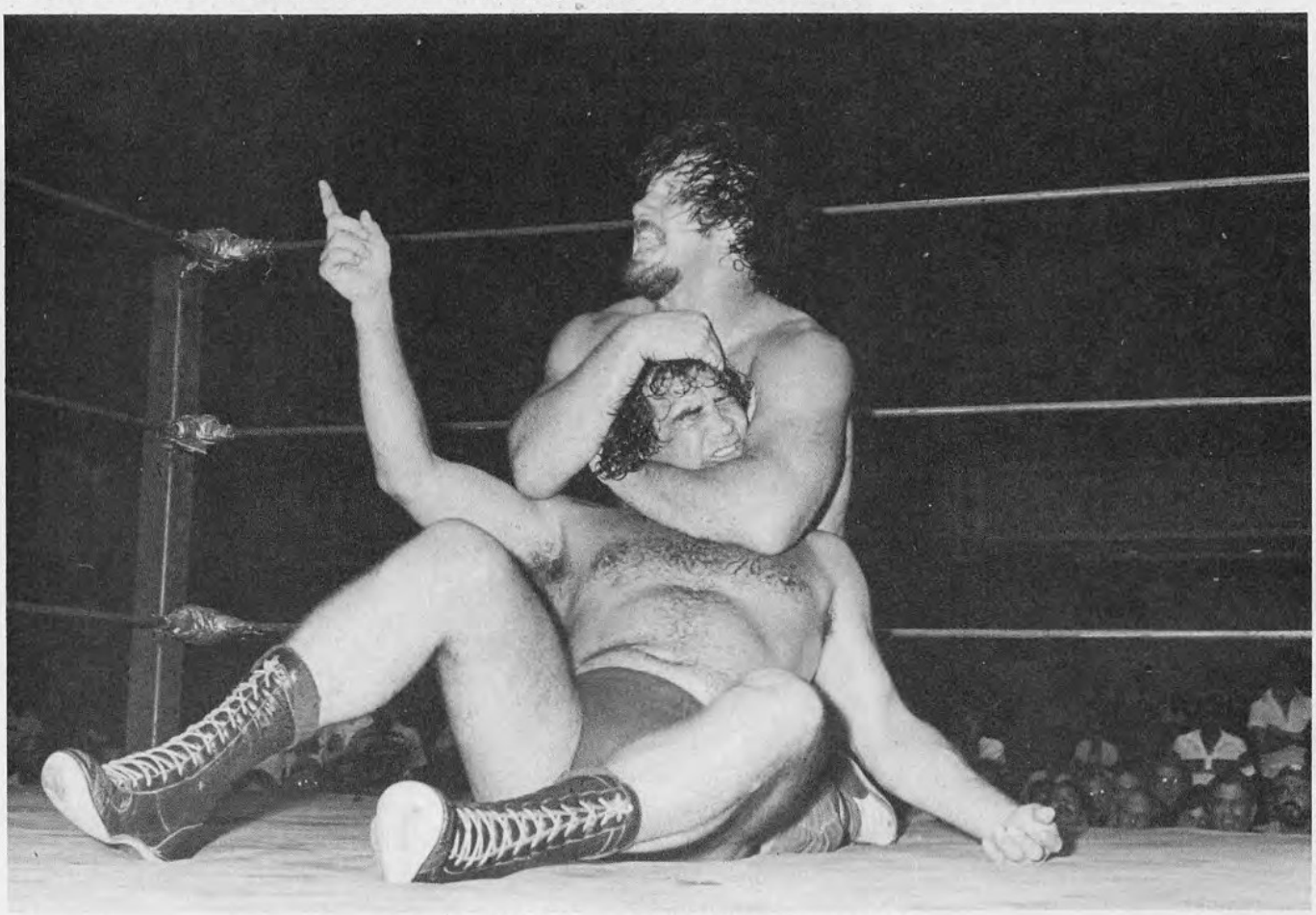
color photo by George Napolitano

movies. It was great working with Stallone on that flick and since then I've been working on several other projects. It looks like one of them is ready to move into the pre-production stages."

Terry Funk began his professional career in 1966. With his father the late Dory Funk and his brother Dory Jr. already well established in the profession, it was only natural that Terry would follow in their footsteps. Having two experienced teachers to guide him Terry learned his lessons very well. In a matter of time Terry Funk became one of the top men in the profession and remained in this enviable position for the next fifteen years!

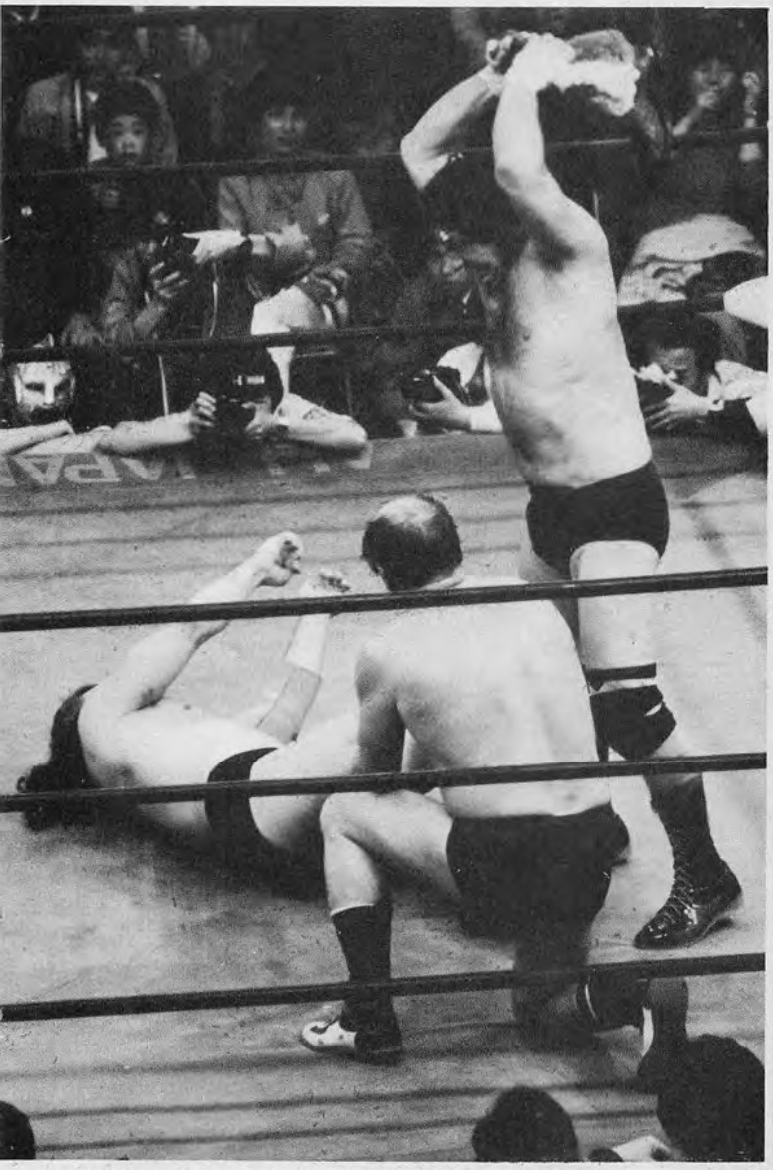
Now the Amarillo, Taxas native has embarked upon a comeback that he hopes will help him land the NWA World's title. "I know all about Ric Flair," Funk said. "The man is great. he's a showman and besides he really knows how to wrestle. He's faced all of the best in the profession and came out on top. He's held the title on three different occasions and that's got to say something for the man. But like everyone before him, Flair's reign will end sooner or later, If the knees hold up I know I could take him. I've been

Terry Funk poses with former NWA champ Pat O'Connor



photos by George Napolitano

Terry has Jack Brisco helpless in a Sleeper hold.



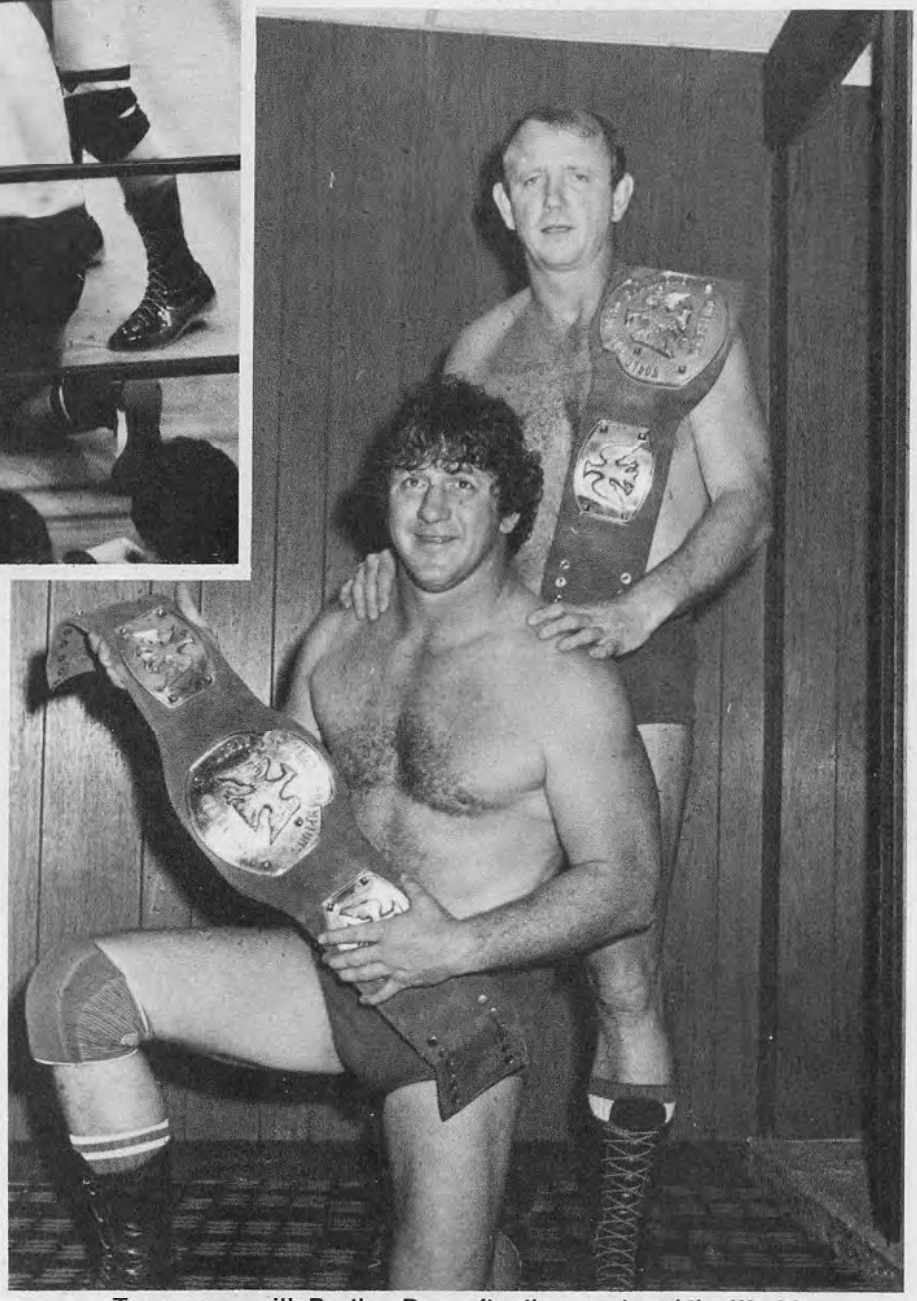
Terry and Dory work over their opponent.

Terry Funk played the role of FRANKIE THE THUMPER in PARADISE ALLEY.

around quite some time and I think I can brawl as well as wrestle with the best of them. I faced Flair several years ago in Toronto, Canada and if you ask me I think I should have won the belt that night. But that's all in the past. I still feel I've got some good years left in me and regaining the World's title is not an impossibility."

With his fiery temperament and fantastic skills don't ever count out Terry Funk. He's a consummate professional and when this tough Texan sets his mind on something he won't ever give up. Now that the Texan has returned, one can expect plenty of action and excitement.

Ric Flair better beware because Terry Funk is a proven champion and a major threat to his throne. □



Terry poses with Brother Dory after they captured the World Tag Team Championship.

WWF WHERE WINDHAM FALLS

by Al Rivera

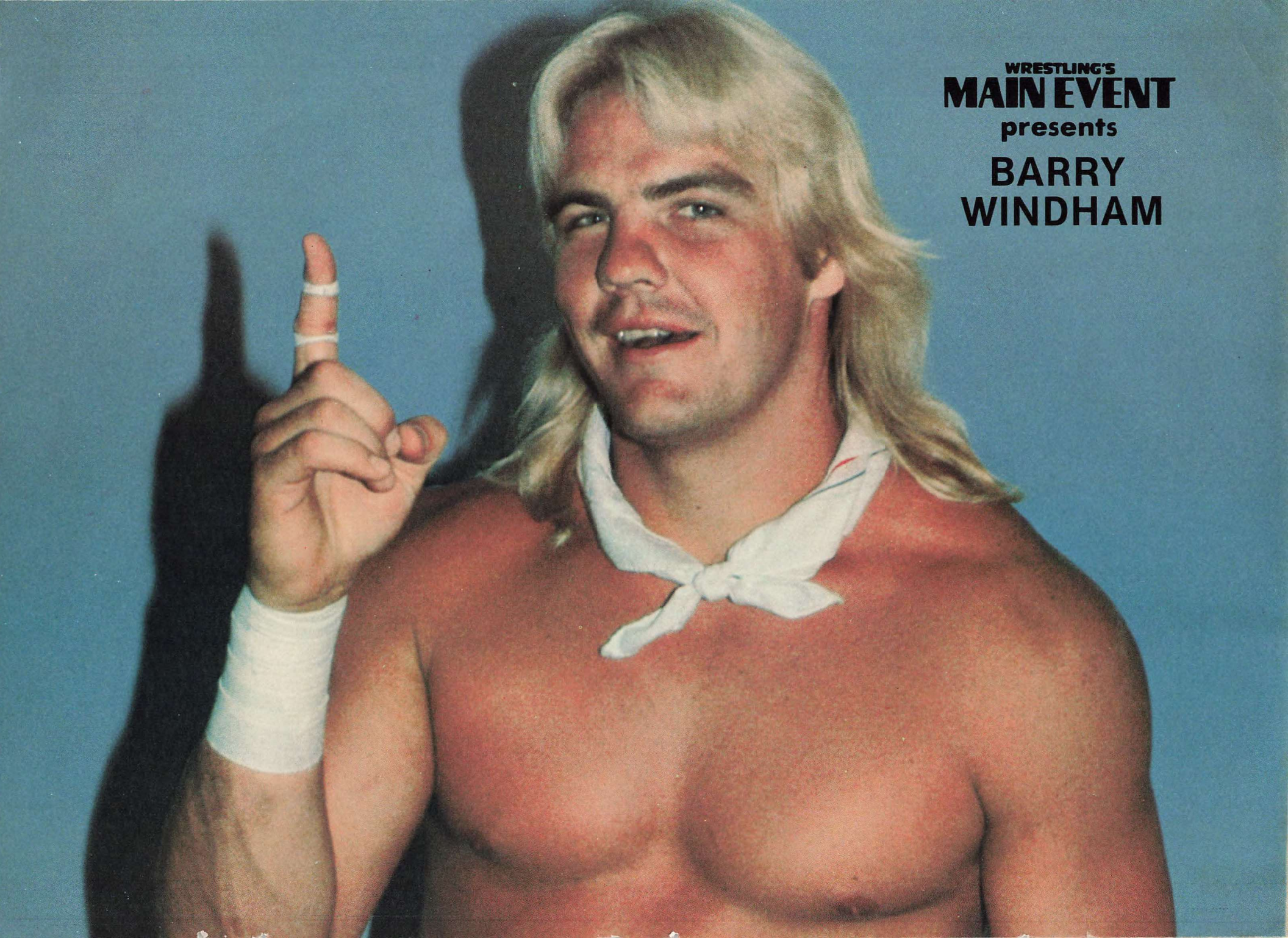
Barry Body Slams Moondog Rex.

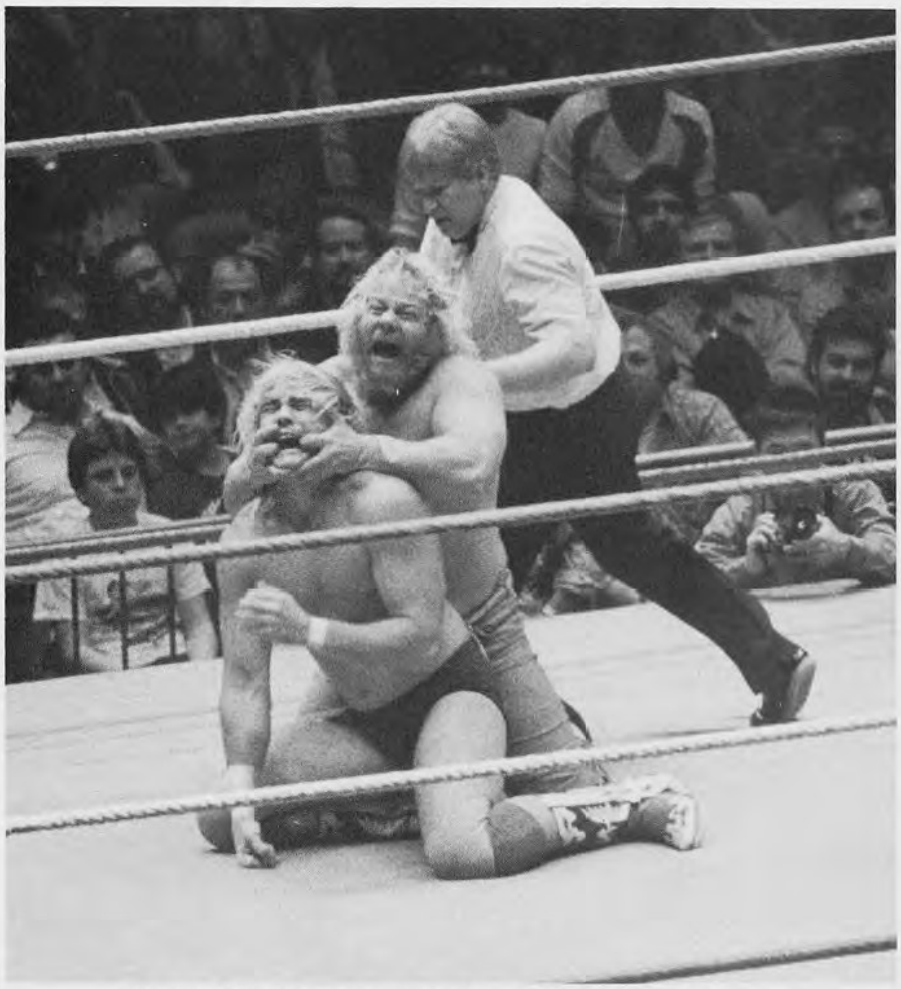
In 1895 Farms Barn became the first heavyweight wrestling champion of the world; on a professional level. Lou Thesz in 1939 won the World's HW title and dominated wrestling for almost thirty years. Harley Race, continued the tradition by dominating wrestling for most of the 70's. In fact, Harley went on to win the World's crown on seven different occasions. By accomplishing this, Harley Race stands alone as the greatest wrestler of all time.

A few years back, I saw a young grappler named Black Jack Mulligan Jr. I was amazed at his wrestling ability. Being of course the son of a wrestler gave him an advantage at West Texas State and aided him immensely in his transition to the pro ranks.

His rule breaking techniques were shooting him straight to the top! He then underwent a change of heart and with it a change of wrestling style and then finally name. Not wanting to be associated with his father the youngster how called himself Barry Windham.

Barry Windham is the newest and latest star to enter the World Wrestling Federation. The twenty four year old Windham who was well on his way to becoming the next Harley Race has all the tools necessary for winning the prestigious NWA World's title. His 230 lbs. are perfectly displaced on his six foot six inch frame, giving him a combination of strength and quickness that are unrivaled!! So why would such a promising young wrestler abandon his quest of reaching the ultimate goal in the sport just to come to the WWF? Good question! The answer lies in his family ties. Black Jack Mulligan who has spent much of his career in the WWF was setting his sights on a broadcasting career. Mr. Mulligan just went through a gallbladder operation and realizes that it might be time to hang up the tights. Black Jack who left the WWF two years ago to aid his son down in Florida, has now returned north. But this time, his return coincided with his son's debut there. Barry obviously left to be at his father's


WRESTLING'S
MAIN EVENT
presents
BARRY
WINDHAM



Rex rips Windham mouth as Barry screams in agony.

side since the traveling that both father and son have had to do has kept them apart. Barry must have been ecstatic having daddy around to keep an eye on his back. What son wouldn't want that. It's only natural, but this might be a decision Barry will live to regret.

By wrestling in the WWF, Barry Windham will become nothing more then a second rate wrestler. His competitive edge will leave as quickly as a rock fan at an opera. Look at Paul Orndoff for example: Great wrestler, great build, gave up the National HW title so that he could get title shot at the, then and still, World's Heavywright Campion Ric Flair. Since coming to the WWF, however, he's nothing more than a clown. After Flair ripped him apart and sent him packing, Paul landed in the WWF. The first few months Paul looked awesome, but now he looks, to put it mildly, like nothing more than a third rate wrestler in the NWA. This is exactly what's going to happen to a once great wrestler, Barry Windham. He will look good to the fans in the WWF for as long as he stays there. But once he returns to some real competition in the NWA or AWA you'll know at once why the WWF is "Where Windham Falls."

I know that the WWF seems to be an exciting and exhilarating place with its ever expanding TV air time. But, this should not make a real wrestling fan lose his ability to see things as they really are. The wrestling in the WWF is okay. What the WWF does great is making its wrestlers look as if they are actors in a soap opera. That's cool, if

Barry applies a headlock to the Moondog.

Windham and Rex collide off the ropes.

you're into that kind of stuff. Me, I am a wrestling fan and I'm not into soap operas. Rick Martel is great as the AWA Champion. Hulk Hogan is just dynamite as the WWF champion. But then again he should be. He is also a good actor. But there is only one World's Champion, and that is Ric Flair, the NWA champ.

As long as Barry Windham continues to wrestle in the WWF, he will never have the opportunity to tell his children that he was to wrestling in the 1980s what Harley Race was to the sport in the 1970s. □

Barry Headbutts Moondog Rex.

Rex sends Barry crashing into the ropes.

EDITORS NOTE:

Barry Windham, despite his questionable decision to come to the WWF, is the finest young wrestler gracing the square circle to date. The former Florida Champ and Florida Tag Champ (with partner Mike Rotundo) distinquished himself in his first tough match as single in the WWF.

Barry's opponent, Moondog Rex is not one to take likely. Rex is younger, faster and bigger than his two brothers, King and Spot, who are no slouches in the squared circle. The Moondogs who are hardened veterans of many ring wars have seldomed tasted defeat. Rex seemed totally umimpressed or daunted by his opponents reputation as the best of the new breed of second generation wrestlers. Rex, despite his size and weight, moves with catlike agility inside the ring. It wasn't long before his brute strength and no holds barred tactics had Barry reeling.

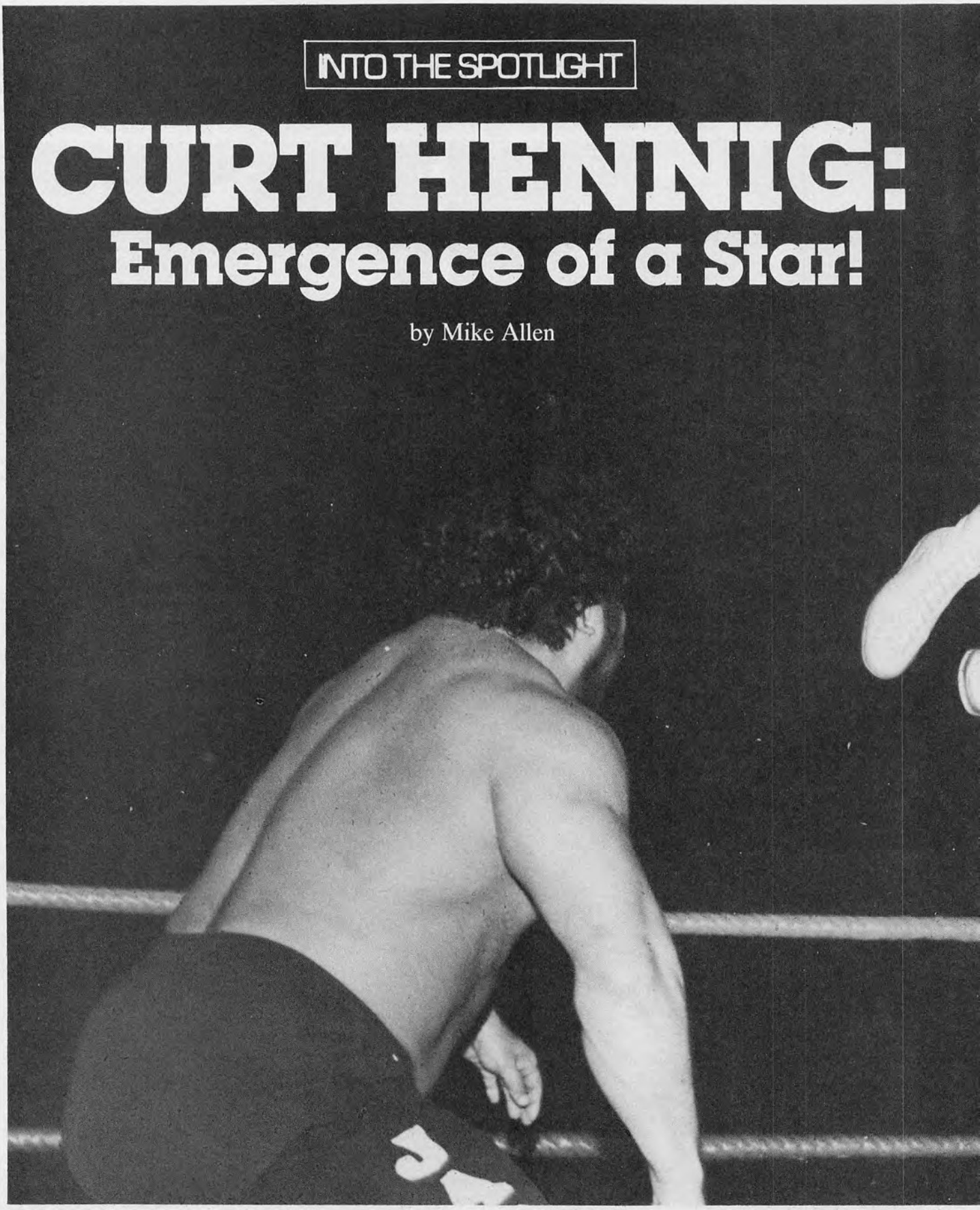
Barry began the match by taking the Moondog head on and soon seemed to dominate the match with lightning Dropkicks and Shoulder Rolls. But Rex soon took control with a succession of powerful blows. Windham's youth and strength soon turned things around as he managed to Body Slam the humongous Moondog with a one handed Body Slam that had the fans on their feet. But Rex, reverting to his usual rule breaking form, took charge again with numerous head blows. Windham then showed he could mix it with the best of them as he clobbered the Moondog over and over again knocking him out of the ring. This tactic soon turned self defeating as the awesome Moondog flung Barry into the ropes with such force that the ricochet into Rex's elbow sent Windham out of the ring. Barry, desperately trying to gain reentrance into the ring, was met by an unbelievable series of blows by the Moondog followed by a series of Body Slams and Back Breakers, culminating in a Bearhug that a lesser man would have never survived. Barry regrouped and slugged his way out of the Bearhug, but the Moondog didn't let up and had Windham soon trapped in a Backbreaker. Windham reversed the Backbreaker into a Body Slam that shook the stadium as the huge Moondog crashed against the canvas. Rex still might have won the match had he not lunged at Barry missing and colliding headlong into the turnbuckle that suspiciously stunned him allowing Windham to apply his patented Bulldog, which is a rip off of Snake Roberts' DDT. The Moondog was out cold and Barry easily turned him on his back and executed the pin.

Windham easily survived his first solo test in the WWF. But will his first victory be a stepping stone to Hulk Hogan's title? When Windham was making his reputation it looked like it was just a matter of time before he captured the NWA belt from Ric Flair. But here inthe gaudy mad world of the WWF where nothing seems to make sense will he ever live up to his promise? I doubt it. After all, Windham's a hero and so is Hogan and we know good guys never face good guys in the WWF despite their standings or reputation. So unless Hogan retires or is hit by a truck, Windham will never have the opportunity to wear that belt of gold around his young waist. □

INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

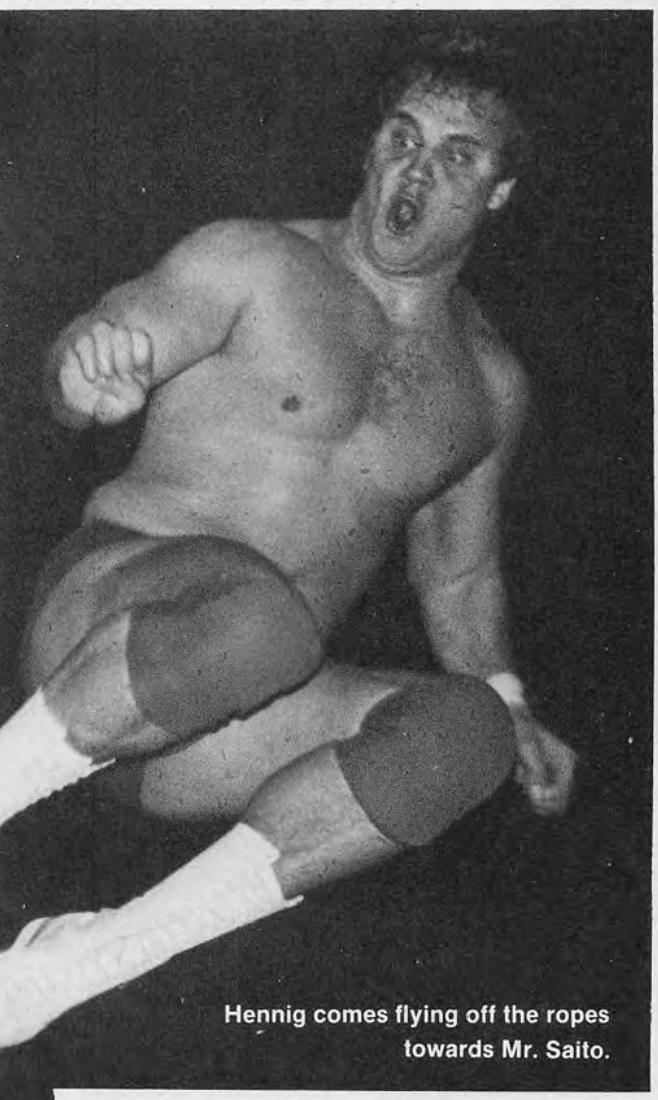
CURT HENNIG: Emergence of a Star!

by Mike Allen

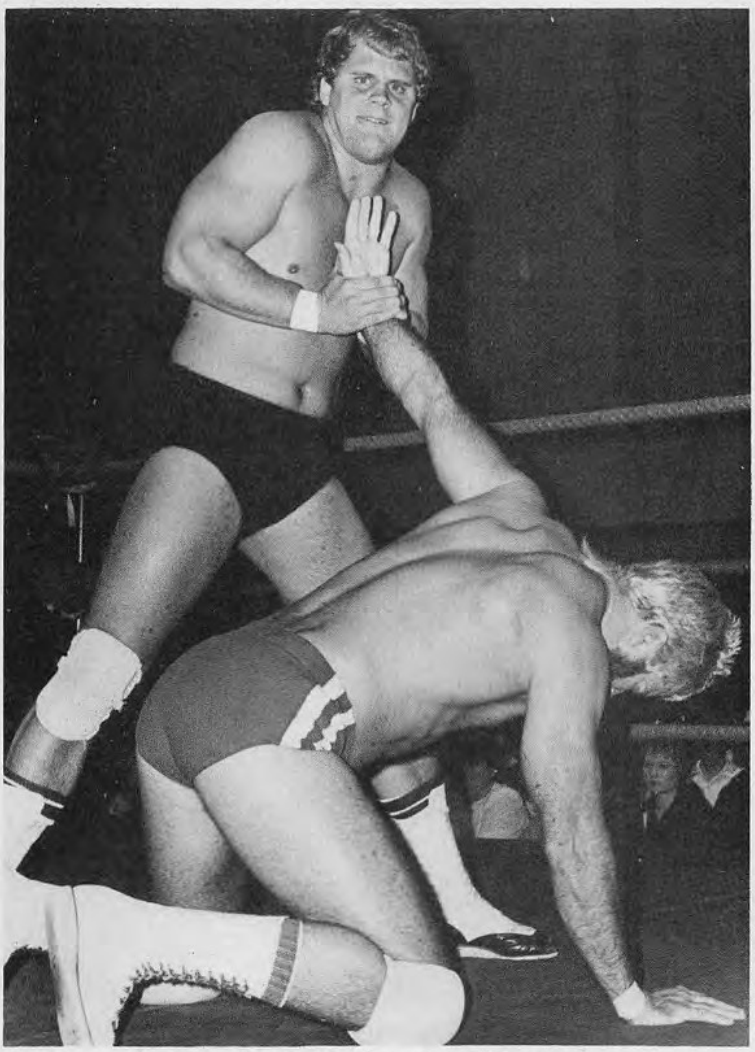


The emergence of Curt Hennig as a top contender in the AWA comes as a surprise to very few people since he showed considerable promise as a rookie a few years ago. After travelling all over the nation taking on some of the toughest competitors in each area Hennig seems ready to make a run at the World's Championship.

After returning to the AWA after a lengthy absence he showed fans and wrestlers alike that his travels taught him a lot by taking on any and all challengers. His early opponents in-

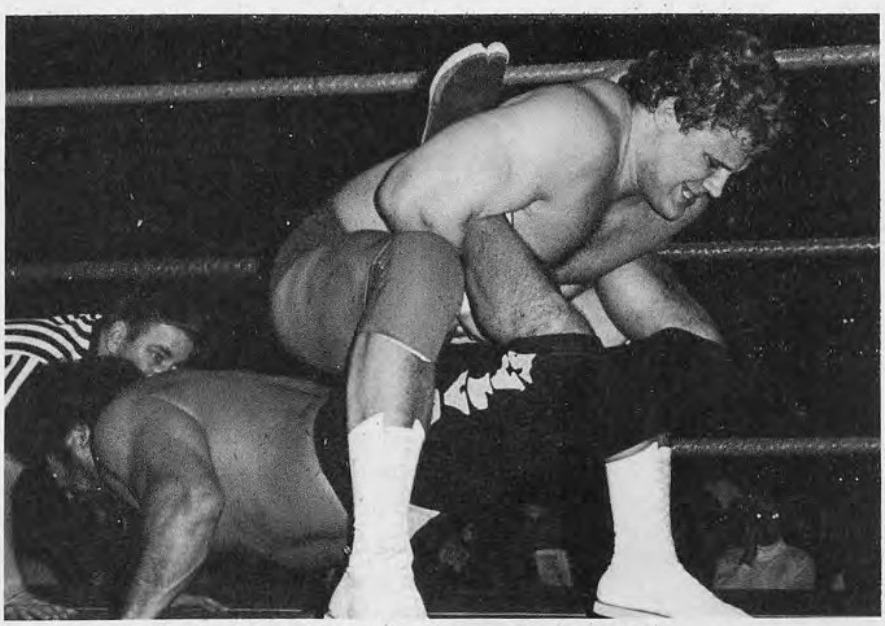


Hennig comes flying off the ropes towards Mr. Saito.



Regal is downed by Hennig's Wrist Lock.

photos by Mike Allen



Hennig has Saito reeling from a Boston Crab.

cluded Larry Zbyszko and Junior Heavywright Champ Steve Regal. Hennig wrestled these men to many twenty minute draws until he was able to discover weaknesses in their wrestling styles and ultimately obtain victories over them.

While he was busy winning matches and gaining a fan following he was also preparing himself for the tougher competition he knew he'd face in the future. After winning many matches he finally got his chance when he was pitted against former World Champion Nick Bockwinkel. The hatred between Bockwinkel and his former manager Bobby Heenan towards Curt's dad, Larry Hennig, ran high and Bockwinkel made it clear that he was going to get revenge by destroying Larry's son Curt. But Curt showed poise and a cool demeanor as he told Bockwinkel that he was ready for him and that he could take anything he had to give and would not be considered a patsy. When the time for the match rolled around, it was Hennig who had a surprise for Bockwinkel. He had his father at ringside to coach him as well as keep an eye on Heenan to make sure he did not interfere. When Heenan did interfere enabling Bockwinkel to gain a pinfall they both faced the wrath of the Hennigs as they were battered by both father and son.

Curt locks horns with Road Warrior, Animal.

The feud between Bockwinkel and Hennig intensified when Heenan brought Harley Race into the AWA to take on Curt and injure him. When this trick failed Heenan attempted to interfere and get the job done himself instead of relying on someone else. Not only did Heenan fail in injuring Hennig but he also was suspended for life because of his constant interference.

Bockwinkel held Curt solely responsible for the loss of his manager and vowed revenge along with his partner, Mr. Saito. The next time Hennig and Bockwinkel met they battled each other inside and outside the ring with the match ending in a twenty minute draw. While both men were angry after the match it was Bockwinkel who had lost the most by drawing with Hennig as he attempted a comeback. Hennig proved to himself and everyone else that he was able to withstand Bockwinkel's challenge and wrestler the former champ to a draw.

After these confrontations Hennig turned his attention to tag team wrestling for a while in an attempt to derail the Champion Road Warriors as they rolled over anyone brave enough to fight them. Hennig formed teams with fellow Minnesota residents Steve Olsonoski and Tom Zinc in an effort to gain the championship. Despite their good showings against the Warriors countering their strength with speed and wrestling ability they came up short against that awesome duo.

Mr. Saito is trapped in Curt's Abdominal Stretch.

Hennig then even teamed, for a while, with his father against the Warriors and father and son also tackled Bockwinkel and Saito proving that they were indeed a team to reckon with. The father-son duo surprised many as they gave their opponents tough matches and showed that together or apart, the Hennigs are formidable and must be treated as such.

Hennig's latest challenge comes from Mr. Saito as he tried to accomplish what Bockwinkel could not, get rid of Curt Hennig once and for all. As soon as the match was announced Saito vowed to injure Hennig and teach him a lesson in wrestling and also a lesson in pain. Hennig responded to Saito's challenge by saying that he was ready for him and that he would show Saito that he was more than a match for the Japanese grappler.

When they finally met in Milwaukee it looked as though both men would be proven right. Saito took control early and inflicted pain on Hennig with a series of judo chops and martial arts moves which nearly gave him a pinfall. Hennig responded by slugging it out toe to toe with Saito and soon he had the advantage as he worked on Saito's legs by applying a painful Boston Crab on Saito who eventually managed to break the hold.

For more than twenty minutes they battled each other, hold for hold, as they exchanged arm locks, suplexes, abdominal stretches and leg locks desperately trying for victory. Both men eventually tired and it looked like the match would go to a thirty minute time limit when Hennig caught Saito with a drop kick off the second rope which stunned him and led to Hennig wrapping him up in a small package for the victory. The outcome delighted Hennig as he again proved that he is worthy of tough competition and is ready to move up in the rankings.

After defeating Saito he again was

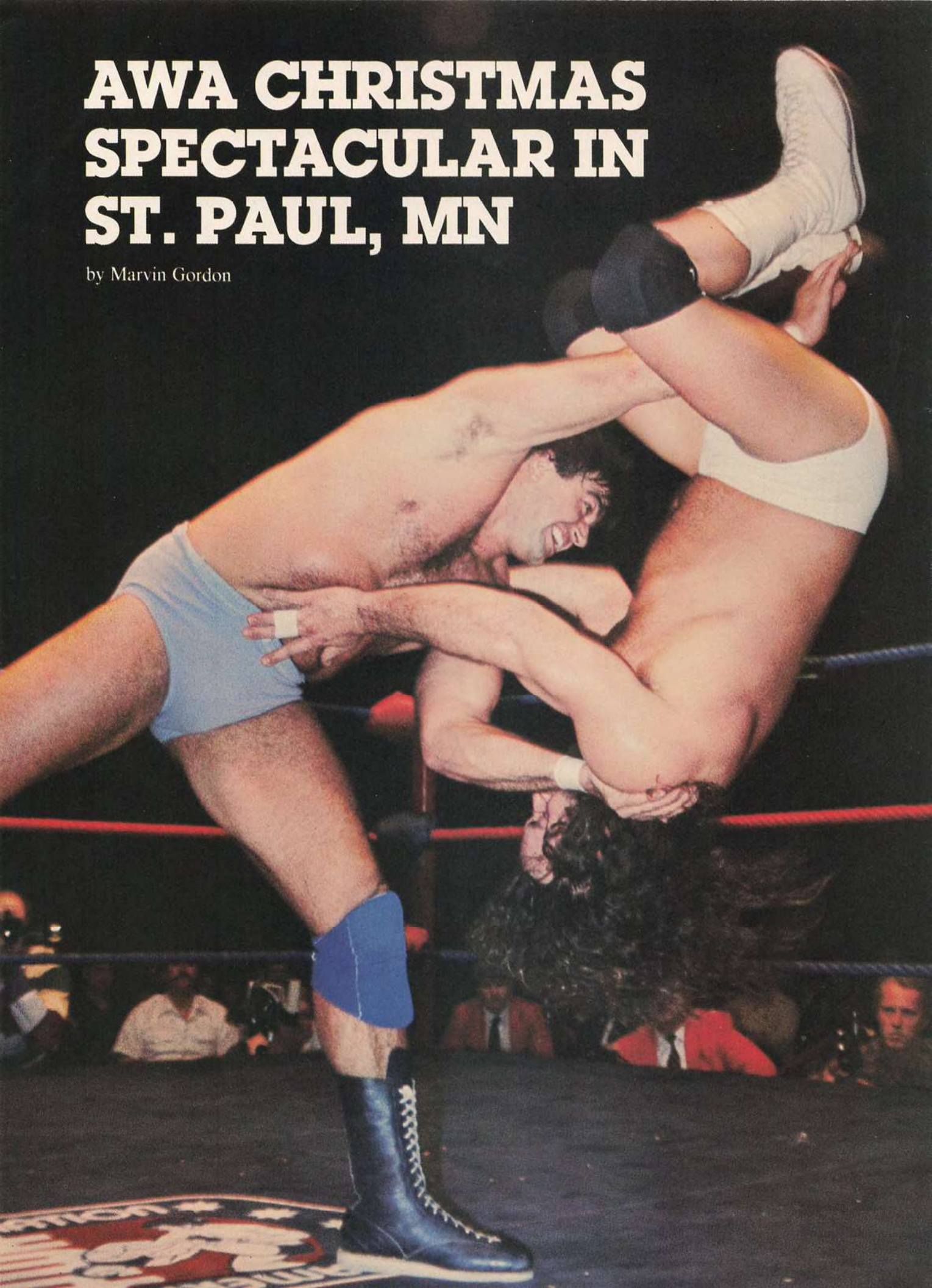
color photo by Mike Allen

challenged by Bockwinkel who is sure that he can defeat Hennig as he works toward a shot at Rick Martel. If Hennig is able to defeat Bockwinkel he might put himself in line for a chance at Martel and the Championship. Although he and Martel have been long-time friends Hennig looks as if he is mounting a challenge to Martel with his string of impressive victories.

Curt Hennig is a man to watch in the future as he becomes more experienced and moves up in the rankings. His ability to wrestler in tag team and individual competition makes him a dangerous opponent who must not be taken lightly due to his versatility. His scientific skills couples with his resulting background make him one of the top young wrestlers in the sport today. □

AWA CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR IN ST. PAUL, MN

by Marvin Gordon



The Minneapolis/St. Paul Wrestling fans came down to the St. Paul Civic Center for their Christmas wrestling presents and Promoter Wally Karbo delivered the goods putting on a tremendous wrestling card. The sellout crowd heartily cheered and jeered from the opener to the main event. The opener on the card saw German great Baron Von Rashke defeat AWA Light Heavyweight Champion Steve Regal in a non-title bout. Regal found the Baron's claw hold too painful and the Baron was victorious on a submission. The next match had British Empire Heavyweight Champion Billy Robinson defeat Steve Olsonoski. Robinson's experience was just too much for Steve.

Mr. Saito and "Jumping" Jim Brunzell fought to a gruelling twenty minute draw. Both wrestlers attempted to use their strength as primary weapons but neither was successful in gaining the upper hand.

Next up and coming superstar Curt Hennig pinned former AWA heavyweight Champ Nick Bockwinkle with a cradle, in the fourth bout of the evening. Photos of this match and more about Curt are in this month's story, CURT HENNIG: EMERGENCE OF A STAR.

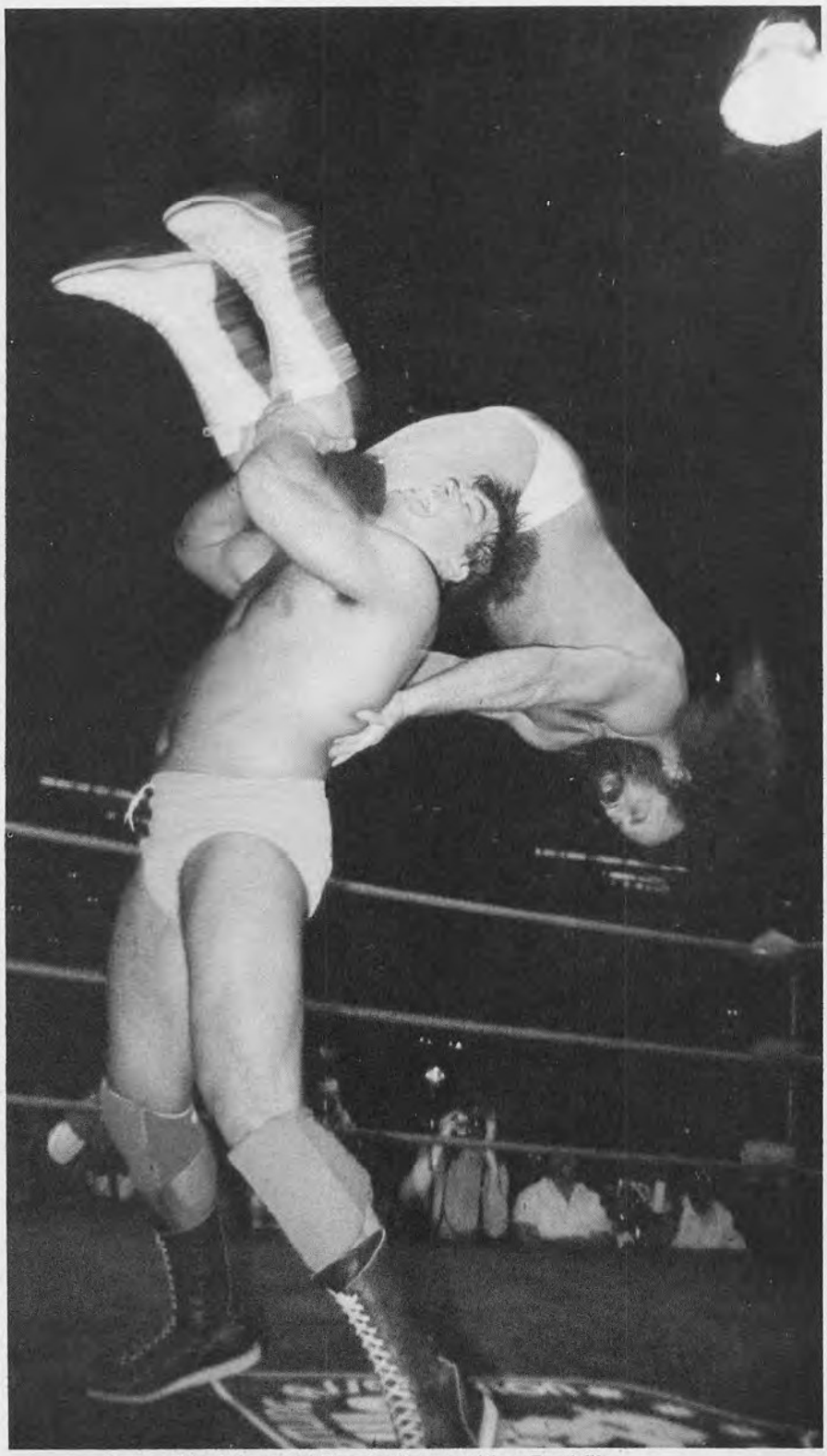
In the evening's grudge match it was The Masked Superstar and King Kong Brody victorious over Jerry Blackwell and Greg Gagne in a very controversial decision. Both Blackwell and Gagne had scores to settle with their opponents. This past summer both wrestlers suffered injuries at the hands of Brody, and the Masked Superstar recently interfered in a match between Gagne and Sheik Adnan El Kassie, Brody's manager. Although the match did not last long the action was fast and furious throughout with barrages of kicks and punches from both teams throughout the match. The controversy started when the referee was knocked out in a collision with one of the wrestlers. Blackwell then delivered his patented big splash, dropping his 475 pound frame on top of Brody and then laid on top of him for the attempted pin. With Gagne attempting to revive the referee the Masked Superstar entered the ring and attacked Blackwell. While this ruckus was going on, Sheik Adnan El Kassie, who was in Brody's and Superstar's corner, handed the dazed Brody what appeared

color photo by Marvin Gordon

Bockwinkle powers Curt Hennig into the ropes.

Animal comes down hard on Steve Kiern in the Main Event.

The Masked Superstar Slams Greg Gagne.

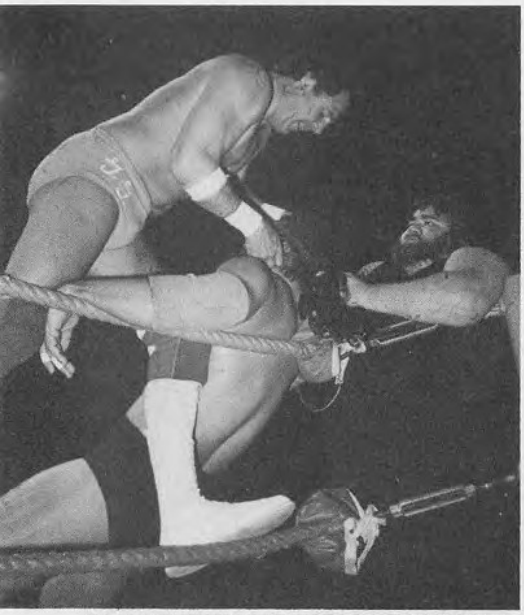


Martel sends Garvin flying with a Backflip.

to be a flat piece of steel wrapped in tape. As the referee was coming to, Brody hit Blackwell over the head with the foreign object and proceeded to pin Blackwell for the victory, still holding the object in his hand. Brody and The Masked Superstar may have won the battle, but the war has just begun.

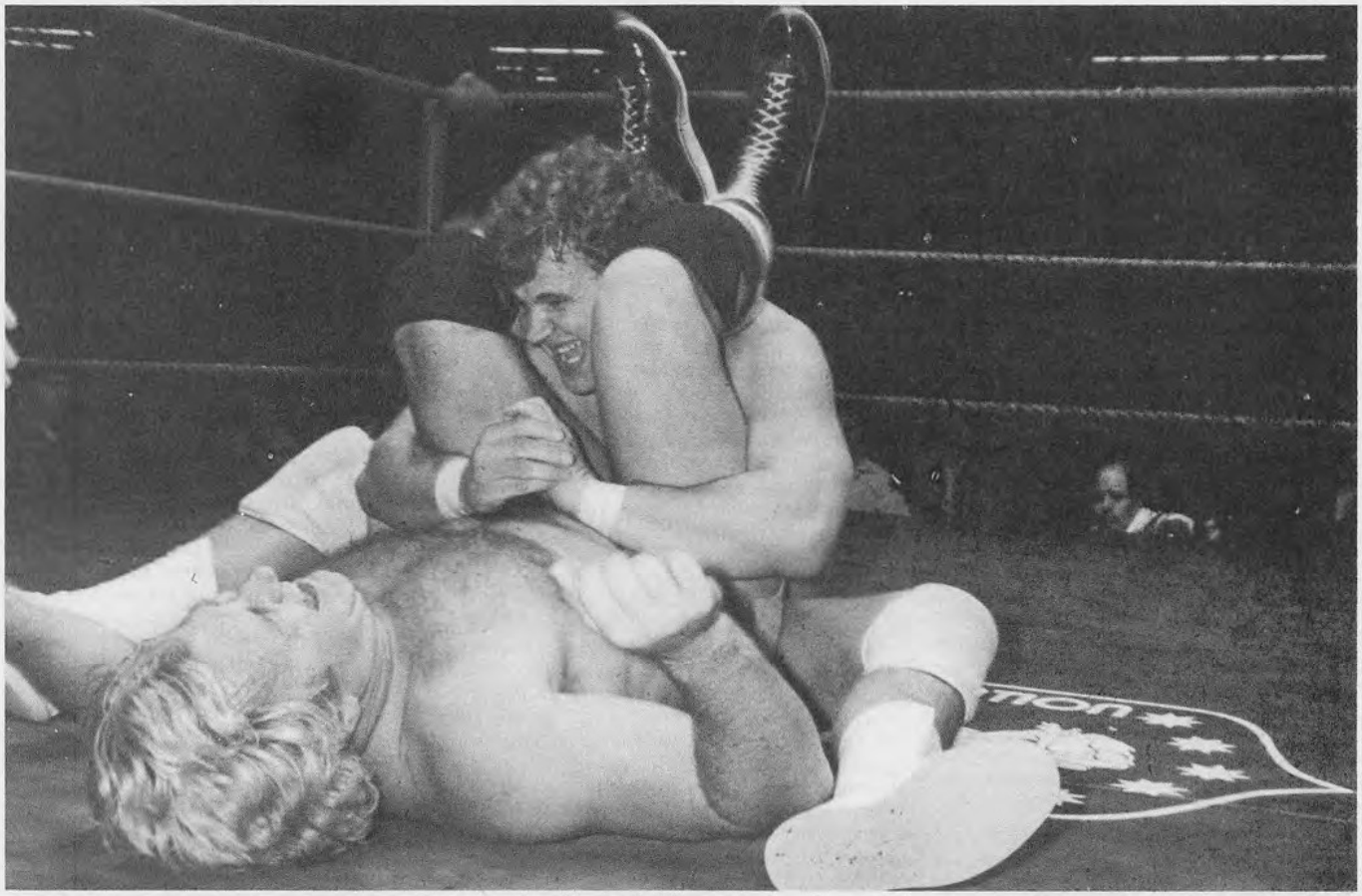
"Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin and his "main squeeze" Precious have recently invaded the AWA and have quickly gained the attention of the wreslters and wrestling fans alike. In fact it was a sneak attack by Garvin on Rick Martel during a TV taping which caused Martel to challenge Garvin to a match, with Martel putting his AWA Heavyweight Championship belt on the line. It is usually unheard of to see a champion make a challenge! This was the Semi-final of the evening. Martel vs. Garvin for the Championship. Garvin could barely finish his strutting and showing off before Martel jumped on him like a panther at the opening bell. Delivering Dropkicks and an Atomic Drop Martel had Garvin a reelin' and a rockin'. Garvin did regain his composure however and proved to the wrestling world that he is a legitimate contender by trading hold for hold with Martel. Martel did begin to gain the upper hand once again, when suddenly Precious sneaked what appeared to be a pair of brass knuckles to Garvin. Garvin decked Martel and covered him for the pin, placing the foreign object under his arm. It appeared that Martel had lost the title. But wait! Promoter Wally Karbo who had been watching the match from the locker room area by closed circuit TV had seen what had happened and ran to the ring. Upon entering the ring Karbo lifted the right arm of Garvin and the object fell to the mat. Karbo quickly reversed the referee's decision and disqualified Garvin for unsportsmanlike conduct in a championship match.

The Main Event featured the Fabulous Ones, Stan Lane and Steve Kern vs. The Legion of Doom, The Road



Gagne and Blackwell work over King Kong Brody.

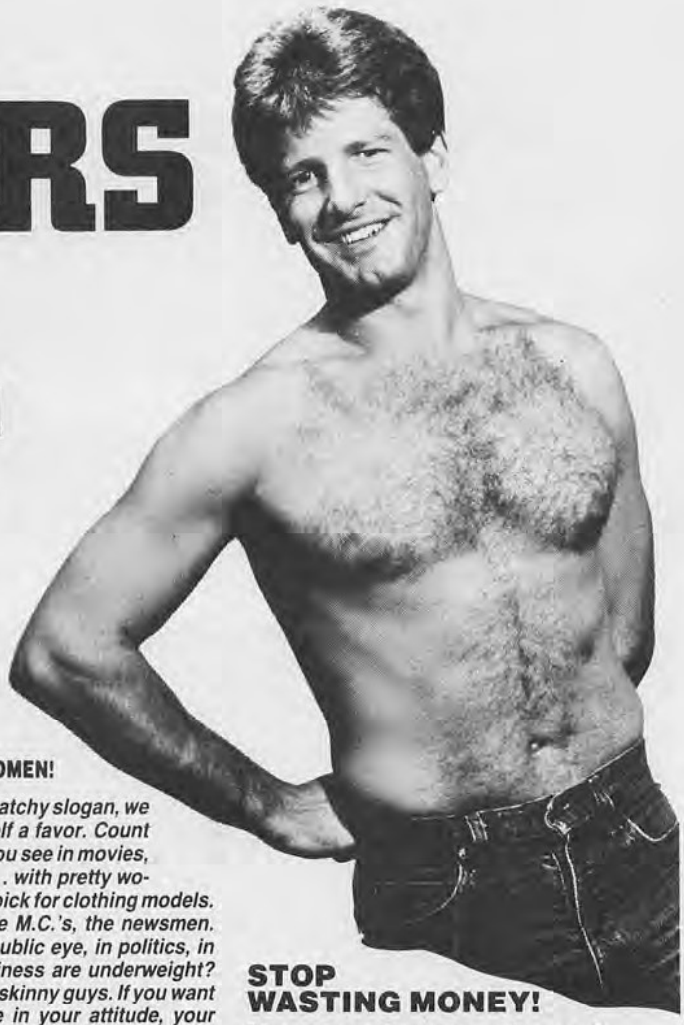
Garvin pins the unconscious Champ.



Hennig pins Bockwinkle and wins the match.

Warriors. The Fabs have anxiously waited for a title shot, since coming to the AWA, and finally got one. Once could almost say this was bad luck considering they had to face what is probably without a doubt the most awesome tag team in the history of the sport. With the Crusher in their corner to help offset the presence of Precious Paul Ellering, the Warriors' manager, the Fabs made a good showing. Although they are outweighed by the Warriors by close to 50 pounds apiece, the Fabs are both rugged wrestlers and they don't back down from anybody! It was a gruelling encounter, neither team taking a long offensive. The Warriors tried to put the Fabs away on sheer strength but they just kept bouncing right back. The match ended in a no contest when Precious Paul interfered in the match by tripping Steve Kiern as he was coming off of the ropes. The referee did not see this but the Crusher did and he ended up chasing Ellering into the ring where the match got completely out of hand. The Fabulous Ones did prove however that they do deserve a rematch. If they want one! (More on this feud on page 59.)□

I TRIED FOR YEARS TO GAIN WEIGHT



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MACHO MEN HAVE MORE FUN

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SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with ShapeUp *working for you.*

LOOK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER WHILE YOU GAIN

In these times when women are free to express themselves and pick and choose their men, you don't need a handicap . . . especially when it's so easy to put yourself in the forefront of competition. Why not look your best? And you will if you feel your best. And you'll feel your best when you gain the kind of nutrition that builds your body to its highest potential. Everyone knows that a healthy body brings a healthy mind and the kind of outlook that makes you want to kick up your heels . . . and go out and lick the world. Yes, with ***ShapeUp***, you give yourself a super-lift of confidence, built into its wondrous formula, that's compounded to perk you up and give you a winning attitude.

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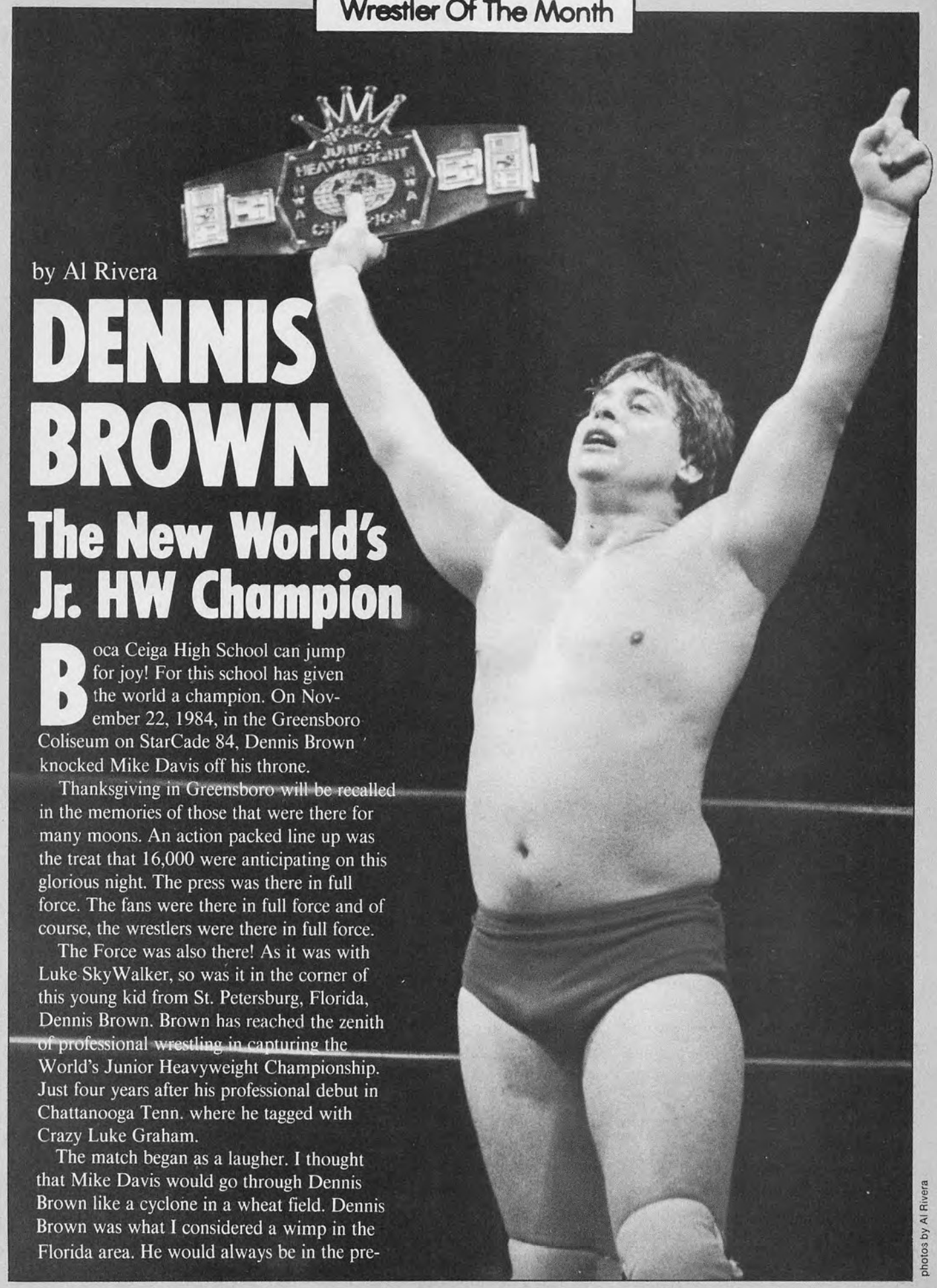


photos by Al Rivera

by Al Rivera

DENNIS BROWN

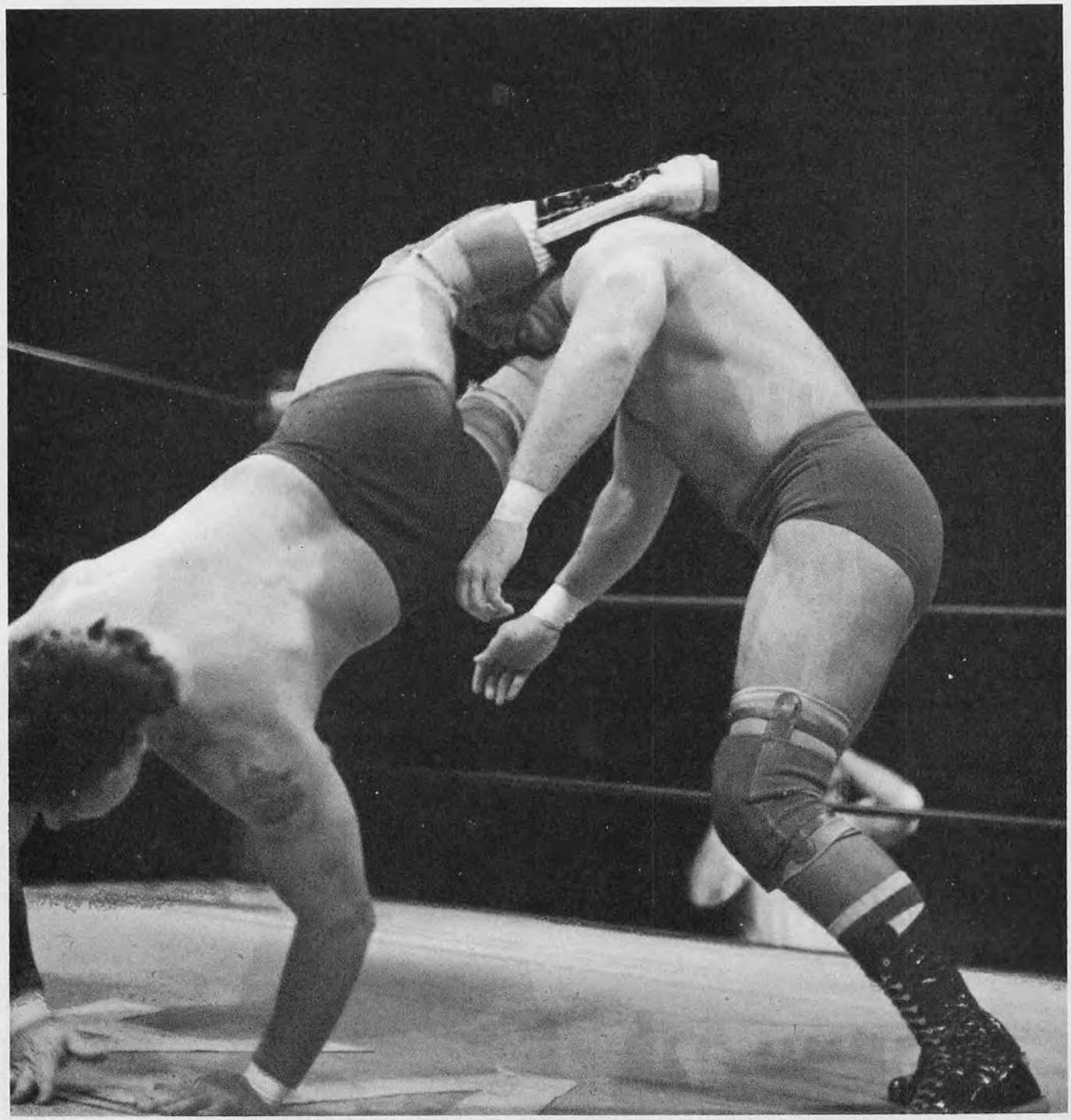
The New World's Jr. HW Champion

Boca Ceiga High School can jump for joy! For this school has given the world a champion. On November 22, 1984, in the Greensboro Coliseum on StarCade 84, Dennis Brown knocked Mike Davis off his throne.

Thanksgiving in Greensboro will be recalled in the memories of those that were there for many moons. An action packed line up was the treat that 16,000 were anticipating on this glorious night. The press was there in full force. The fans were there in full force and of course, the wrestlers were there in full force.

The Force was also there! As it was with Luke SkyWalker, so was it in the corner of this young kid from St. Petersburg, Florida, Dennis Brown. Brown has reached the zenith of professional wrestling in capturing the World's Junior Heavyweight Championship. Just four years after his professional debut in Chattanooga Tenn. where he tagged with Crazy Luke Graham.

The match began as a laugher. I thought that Mike Davis would go through Dennis Brown like a cyclone in a wheat field. Dennis Brown was what I considered a wimp in the Florida area. He would always be in the pre-



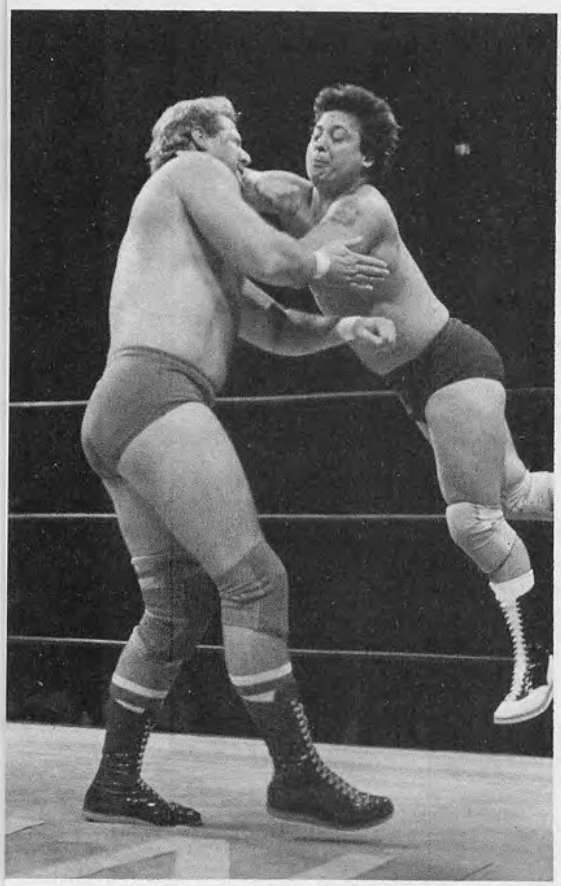
Dennis Brown catches Mike Davis in a Flying Head Scissors.

liminary matches and would, nine times out of ten, take a terrible beating. But, experience has changed all that for the better. The wimp is a whirlwind! About two minutes into the match I saw a different Dennis Brown. This young Hawaiian has blossomed into a seasoned veteran.

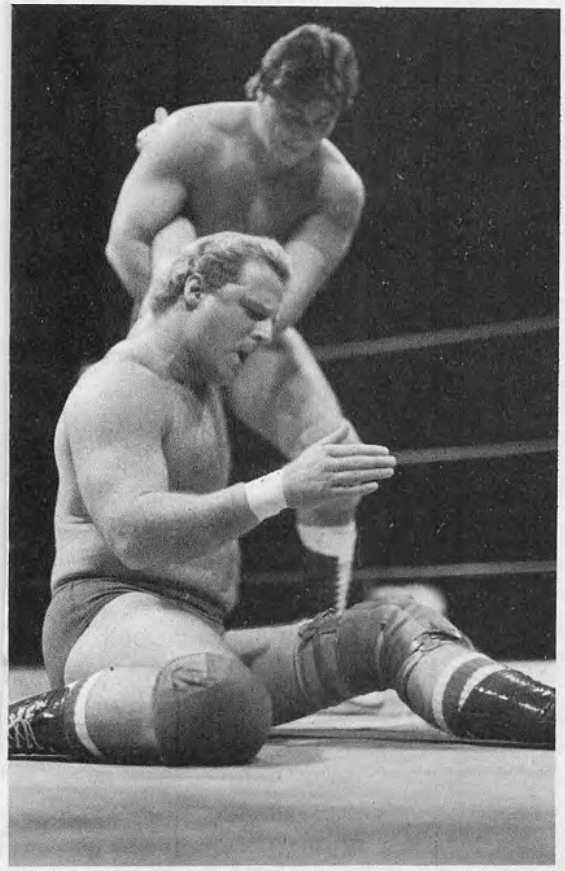
The title opportunity came via the way of Les Thorton losing to Hector Guerrero on July 13th, 1984 in Los Angeles. Hector then lost the title to Mike Davis on October 2, 1984 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Davis then brought the title to the Mid-Atlantic where Mr. Brown's wrestling ability has been soaring to great heights for the past four months. A few good victories in the lower weight class and the NWA gave the young kid a title shot.

The match was a true wrestling encounter. Both principals were giving the fans an in depth look at classic wrestling. The match was mostly Mike's if scored according to amateur rules, but the future champ was giving an excellent account of himself. Mike executed a beautiful belly-to-back suplex, a rolling reverse and then a full power slam. He did another reverse, with a Wrestlcr's Bridge and the ref counted three. At the count of two, Dennis lifted his right shoulder, therefore the three count being administer was on Mike Davis.

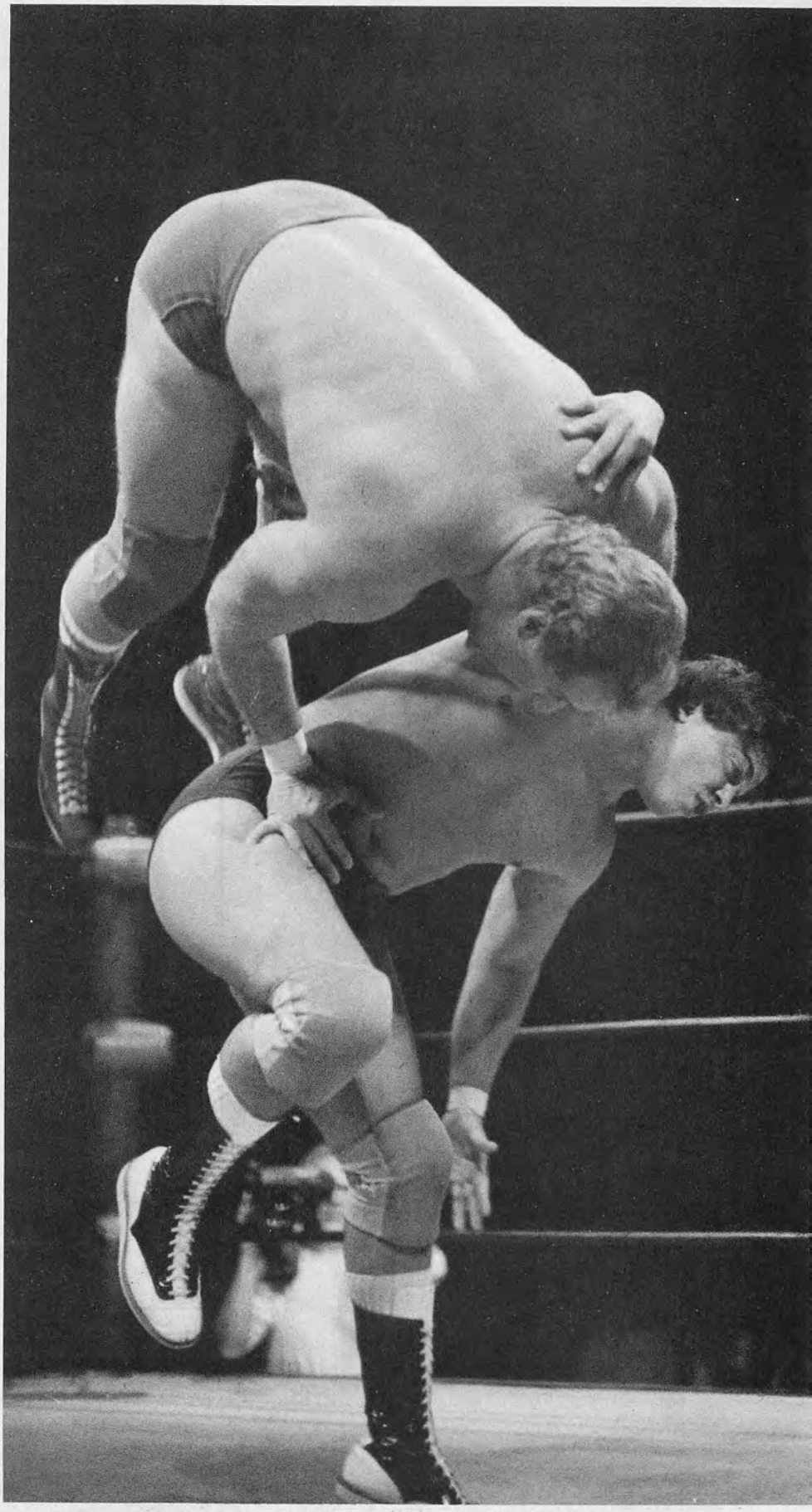
The bout was over, Mike thought he had won. But, his reign as numero uno was over. Mike realized his mistake and that he lost his title fair and square. He gave the new champ his best and left the new Jr. HW Champion to the fans. LONG LIVE THE CHAMP. □



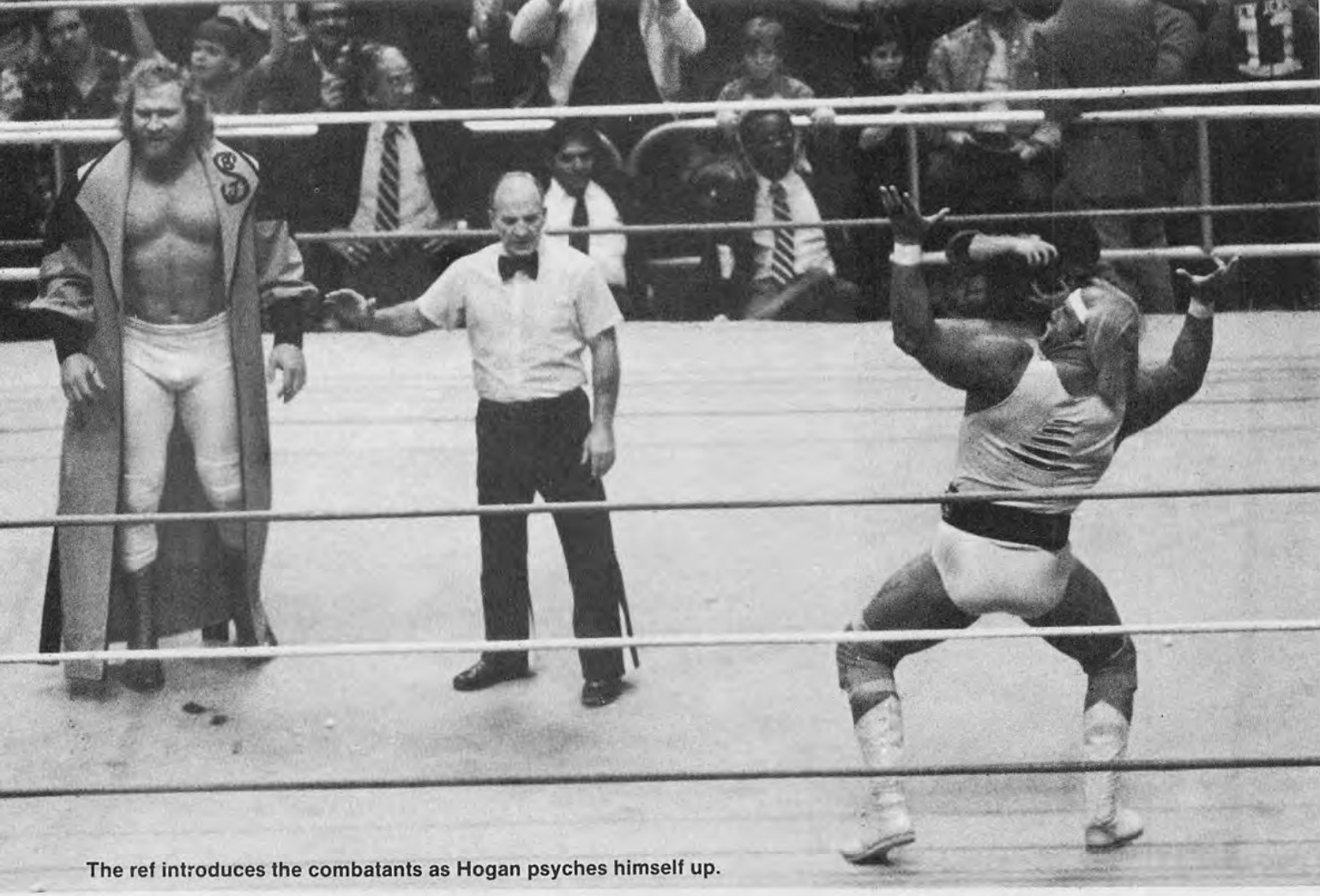
Dennis sends a flying elbow into Davis' chin.



Brown has Mike Davis down caught in an Arm Bar.



Dennis sends Davis flying with a Shoulder Roll.



The ref introduces the combatants as Hogan psyches himself up.

STUDD'S LAST STAND

by Perry Greenberg

John Studd's unholy alliance with Bobby "The Brain" Heenan was for one purpose and one purpose only; to defeat the incredible Hulk Hogan and take one of the greatest prizes in sports, the WWF Championship belt. Despite Studd's constant clamoring about proving to one and all that he, not Andre, is the true giant of wrestling, the crafty Heenan knew full well that Hogan not Andre is the quarry worth pursuing because the money comes from the man who possesses the tangible prize of that gold belt not the abstract title of the Giant of Wrestling. Heenan, who by now is considered one of the top managers in the sport, set his sights on having the WWF title and after reviewing the tapes of hundreds of wrestlers decided that the giant from California was the man who could topple the popular champion.

Studd is certainly an imposing figure at 6 ft. 9 inches tall and 360 lbs. and except for Andre, has demolished all his opponents. Even the great former WWF champ Bob Backlund retained his title by a lucky technicality after being thoroughly trounced by Studd. Studd is such a commanding figure that he claims no one can slam him and has offered a prize of fifteen thousand dollars to anyone who could. Even the great Andre has failed to collect this bounty during his encounters with Studd.

Hogan was totally unprepared for Studd in their first meeting, expecting his opponent to be Jesse Ventura as billed. But through the obvious machinations of Heenan the shocked champion found himself facing Studd. In their first meeting Sutdd battered

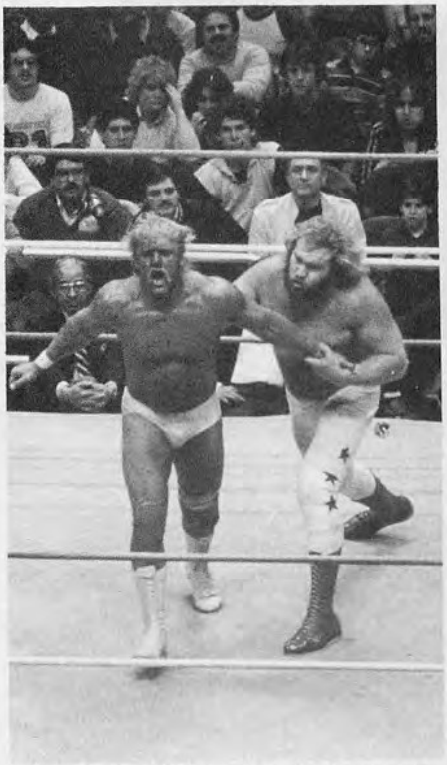
and bloodied Hogan from one end of the ring to the other but failed to achieve a pin fall. In their second meeting Hogan looked much sharper and managed to defeat his huge opponent quite convincingly. But now it was time for their final encounter. It was truly Studd's last stand and Heenan's last roll of the dice to see if his expensive gamble would pay off.

The match began as the two behemoths first cautiously stalked each other then locked up collar and elbow. With $15,000 on the line, Hogan immediately tried to Body Slam Big John but was unable to as Studd tensed up. Studd in turn tried the same maneuver on Hogan but he too came up short. Hogan's last attempt to Slam the giant ended up with the champ receiving some devastating blows to the back that stunned him. Studd then sent Hogan into the ropes but missed a big elbow when Hogan came off the ropes. Hogan then regained the initiative and caught the giant with a succession of blows culminating with a boot to the head. Hogan then tried to Slam Studd again. This was a big mistake because in this attempt Studd retaliated by clobbering Hogan sending him to the canvas.

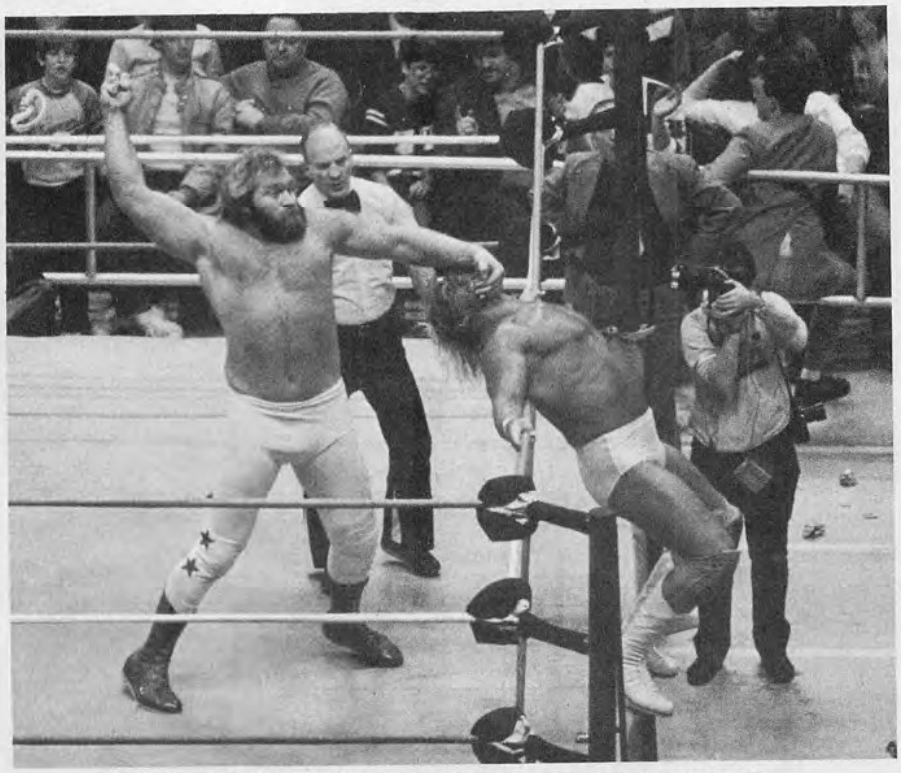
Hogan got up and when Studd slammed him against the ropes, came off to clothesline Studd stunning him then following up with a series of blows to the head. Hogan then attempted to slam Studd again but failed as Studd held the ropes and managed to get out of the ring with Hogan's head caught against the announcer's table. The Champ, now busted open, tried desperately to get back into the ring. Studd, seeing his chance, jumped out of the ring and slammed the champ's head into the steel guardrail near the fans. Hogan, bleeding profusely, again tried to reenter the ring only to be met by Studd's huge fists. Hogan then grabbed Studd's leg but the gigantic challenger used his free leg to kick the champ knocking him down. Hogan bleeding and dazed was then pursued by Studd who tossed him back into the ring like a rag doll. The Champ, now almost out on the canvas, gave Studd

Studd pounds Hogan on the ropes.

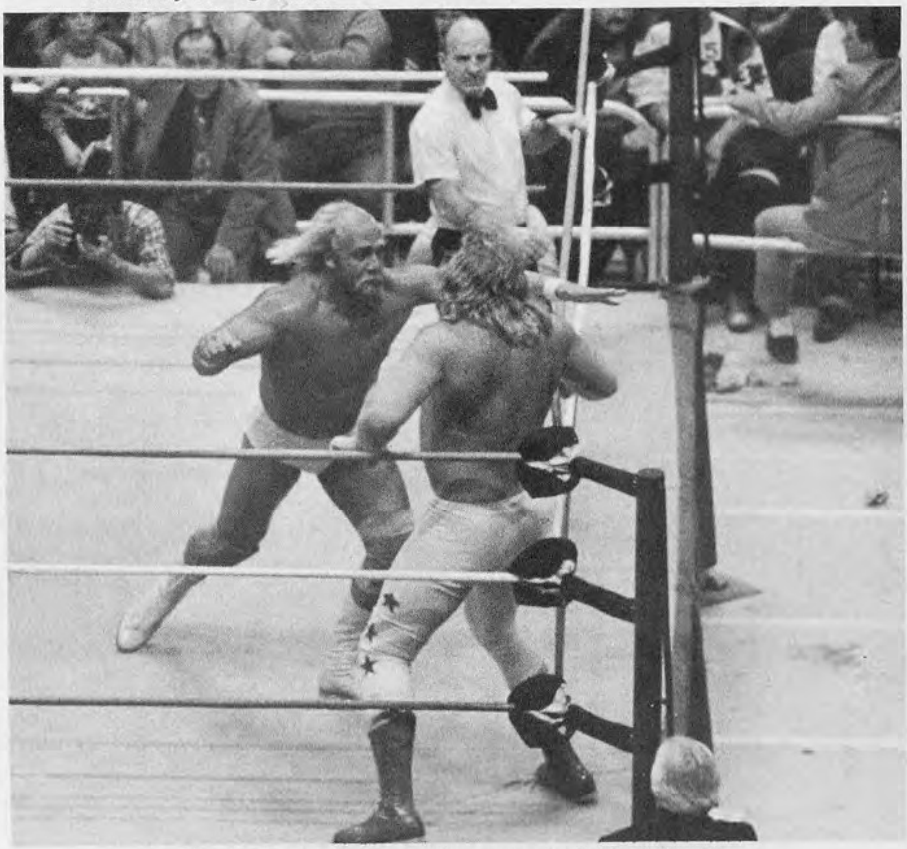
Big John body Slams the Champ.



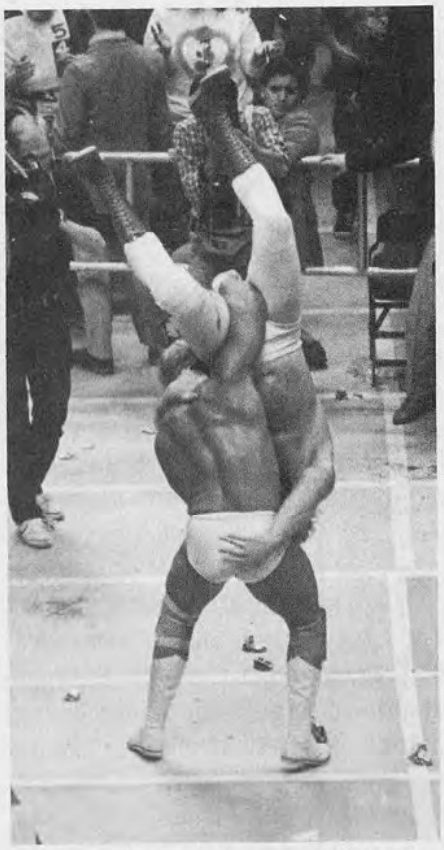
The Hulkster is flung into the ropes courtesy of Big John.



Hogan holds on to the ropes as he's pummeled by Studd.



The Hulk retaliates and comes straight at Studd.



The Hulkster astounds the crowd and Body Slams Studd.

the opportunity to climb on to the top rope. He came off the ropes with a devastating blow to Hogan's back knocking him senseless. He then slammed Hogan into the ropes and as Hogan rebounded off the ropes he was met with a monstrous shot to the head.

Studd went for the pin but could only get a two count. Studd then tossed the Hulkster into the ropes and smashed him with a Clothesline. He then tried for the pin again but the tough champ still had enough in him to resist a three count. Studd then let the fans know he was now going to slam the champ and did so with ease. Heenan was now screaming for his man to finish Hogan, but Studd hesitated giving Hogan the opportunity to get up and when he did he was met by a tremendous kick that sent him out of the ring. As Hogan

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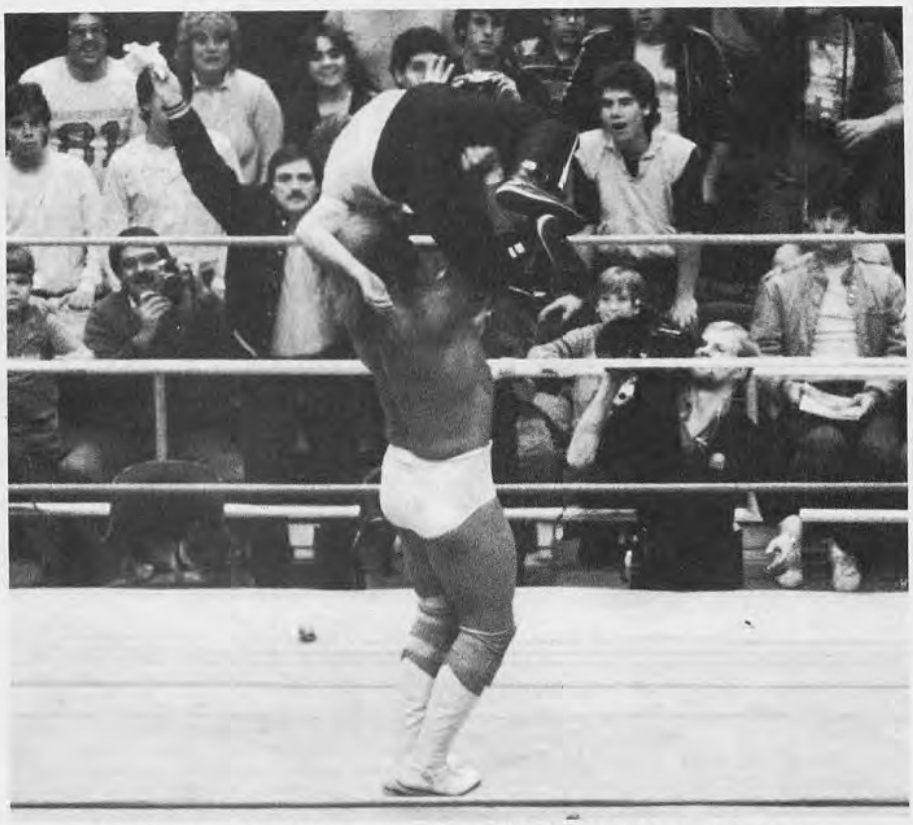
Studd, down and writhing in pain, is attended to by manager Heenan.



A jubilant and victorious champion lifts the ref high over head.

tried to reenter he was met again by Studd's boot but grabbed it and dragged Big John out of the ring to take a breather, but Studd followed the dazed champ and repeatedly pounded him with one tremendous blow after another. But then, to the amazement of the fans, Hogan reached down deep inside and tensing up every huge muscle in his body and with his face a crimson mask of fury, gritted his teeth and with the adrenaline flowing, shook his head and seemed to be saying to his massive opponent, "go on give it your best shot." He blocked Studd's next shot then hit the challenger on the forehead with a blow that had him spinning. Hogan then lifted Studd up like a sack of potatoes and administered a devastating Body Slam on the concrete floor. The crowd went wild as Hogan jumped into the ring and raised his belt leaving Heenan's charge on the floor holding his injured back, unable to get up, obviously in great pain.

The champ had done it. He had turned back his greatest challenge and had done what some thought impossible by Body Slamming the huge challenger. Unfortunately for Hogan, the Slam outside the ring means that he won't get the fifteen grand, but he retained his title and humiliated the man who claimed he couldn't be Slammed. The biggest loser however may be Studd's crafty manager who gambled heavily on the giant from L.A. taking the title. Heenan, while consoling his defeated wrestler on the ring floor, must now be wondering after this major set back if he'll ever capture a major title in the WWF. □

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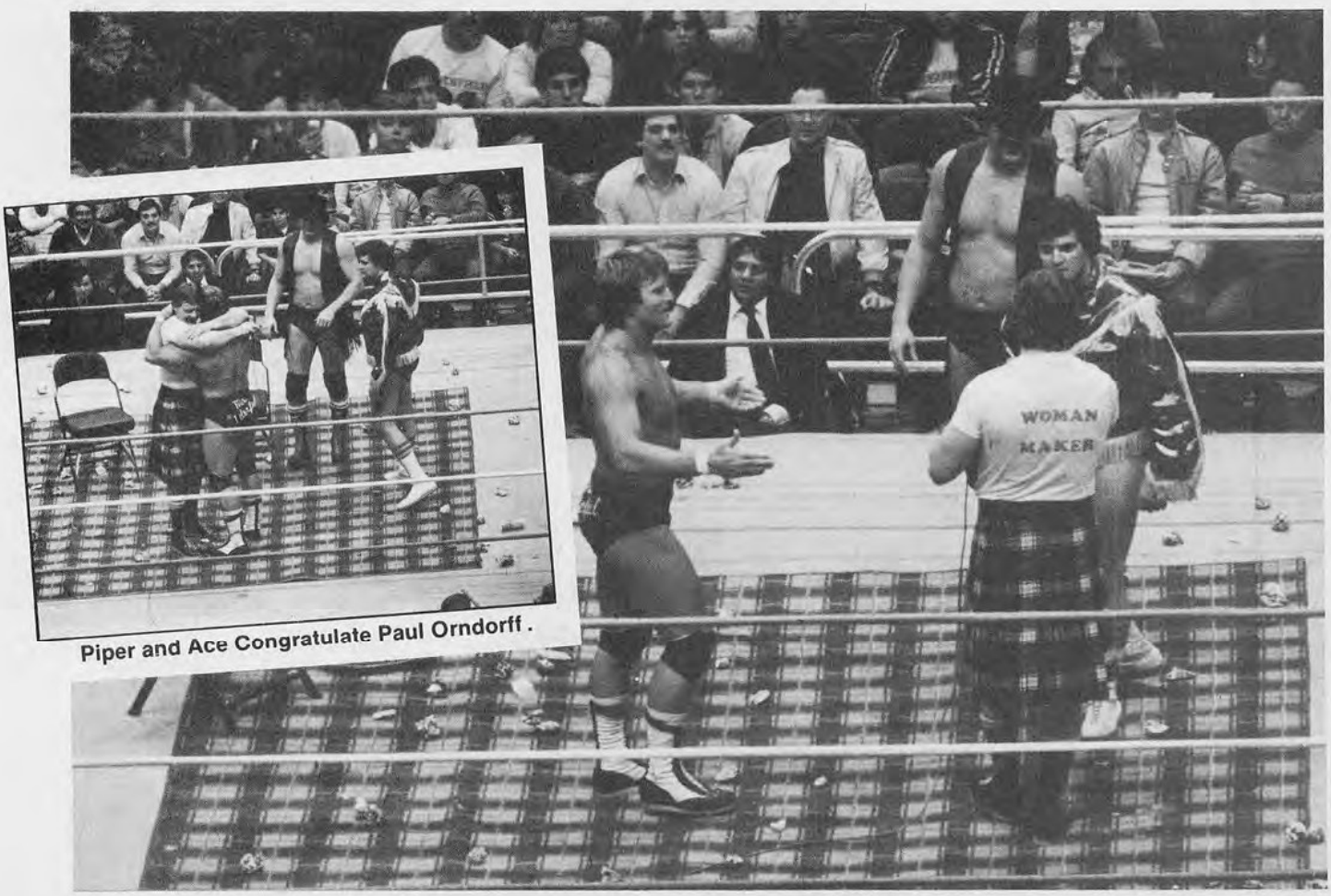
1985: The Year of the Scotsman

Piper Goes Off The Deep End

by Nick Anunziatta

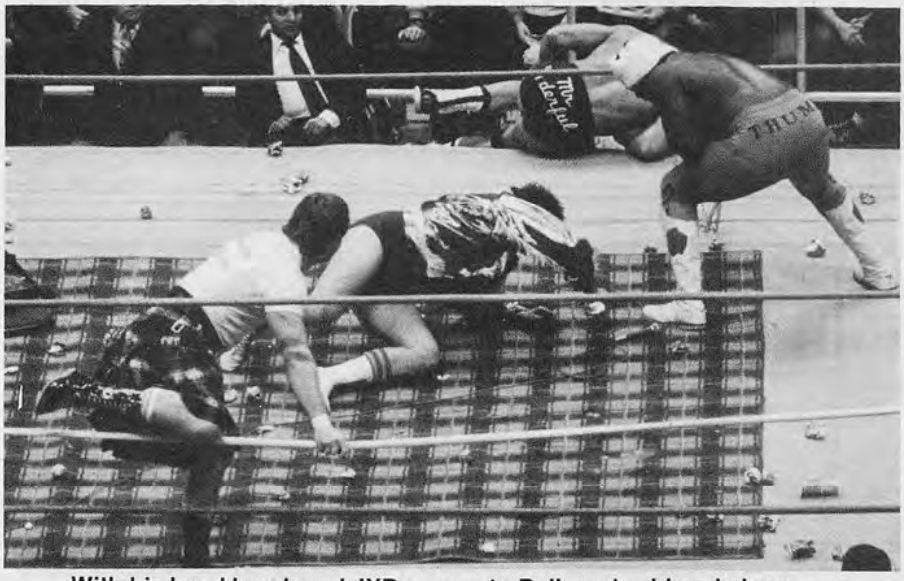
In 1983 Roddy Piper was loved by all. He was everyone's hero and the wrestling world witnessed one of the most incredible feuds of all times as Piper battled Greg "The Hammer" Valentine.

In 1984 the Rowdy One showed up in the WWF territory as a manager. Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff, Doctor David Schultz were two of his charges. He obtained championship matches for both against Hulk Hogan, but neither were successful in capturing the title. Piper then became the partner of each man but unfortunately neither team was able to win the tag team title. Suddenly, Piper no longer appeared at ringside with the grapplers and no one knew for certain if he was indeed still their manager. (Ed. Note: By the end of the year Bobby "the Brain" Heenan had taken over management of both wrestlers.) Finally Piper began hosting the most outrageous and controversial wrestling program ever aired called "Piper's Pit." Week after week wrestlers would appear on the show and soon find themselves being insulted and humiliated by Piper. Andre the Giant, Tony Atlas, Sergeant Slaughter and dozens more all felt the verbal thrashings of Roddy Piper when they visited his "Pit." It was in fact, on the "Pit" that the Lou Albano-Cyndi Lauper controversy first surfaced. When the dust finally cleared it was revealed that Lou Albano was not Ms. Lauper's manager. Lauper then went on to manage Wendi Rich-



Piper and Ace Congratulate Paul Orndorff.

Piper, Orndorff and Ace are about to pulverize Sal Bellomo.



With his head bandaged JYD comes to Bellomo's aid and clears the ring with his chain.

ter who defeated Fabulous Moolah to win the Women's title.

Probably the most outrageous event ever to occur in the "Pit" was when Piper attacked Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and smashed a coconut over his head. This led to a wild series of matches culminating in their battle in Madison Square Garden. In this encounter Snuka was carried out of the ring on a stretcher after Piper threw him out of the ring head first and then rammed a steel chair into his neck. Snuka's career was in jeopardy as a result of Rowdy Roddy and his riotous ways.

Piper uses a choke hold on the Tonga Kid while his back is towards the ref.

Now it's 1985 and the Rowdy One has added a new ingredient to his bag of tricks. He has a personal bodyguard that he refers to as "Ace." Now when a guest sits in the hot seat on "Piper's Pit," the muscular and menacing "Ace" stands right behind them. "Ace" by the way is none other than "Cowboy" Bob Orton. "Ace" or Orton accompanies Piper on interviews, and even into the ring when Roddy dons the tights. He has also become Piper's frequent tag team partner. The fans are puzzled as to why Orton, who has worked long and hard to become a top contender on his own, threw his hat in with Piper? Insiders believe that the bottom line is, money! Rumor has it that Piper is paying Ace very handsomely for his services. But the question remains, is Piper so paranoid that he needs protection or does he have an ulterior motive for hiring "Ace"?

To sort out some of the mystery and unanswered questions about Piper's irrational behavior we asked some of the pros who were closest to Roddy in 1984 what Piper's plans are for the new year. Here are the replies:

PAUL ORNDORFF: "How would I know? All I know is Mr. Wonderful,

Piper's body guard, Ace, Suplexes Jimmy Snuka.

Rowdy Roddy comes off the ropes and creams the Tonga Kid.

Paul Orndorff will be a champion before this year's ends."

COWBOY BOB ORTON: "No comment!"

"Dr. D" DAVID SCHULTZ: "Speak to my manager, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan."

"Superfly" JIMMY SNUKA: "I don't know what his objectives are, brother, but I know what mine are: to put you, Piper, out of the sport. To do to you what you tried to do to me."

As you see, Piper's former charges have little to say about him pro or con. Snuka's response, meanwhile, was exactly what the fans wanted to hear. Orton though had nothing to say, but when we asked to speak to Piper directly "Ace" became very protective and said, "You can hear Mr. Piper's thoughts on his T.V. show."

The most insightful comment we received came from someone in the sport who said that he would give his opinion if we promised to let him remain anonymous. We agreed to his demand because his opinions are invaluable. This big man then sat back in his chair, toyed with the rubber band around his beard and began, "Roddy Piper had a plan, brother, and it did have merit, but due to his excitable personality, lack of managerial experience and over all total incompetence he blew it! The man wanted Orndorff and Schultz to soften up Hulk Hogan. He never really wanted them to win the belt, just weaken the Hulkster so that when he got a title shot he would be able to win the belt himself. Everything was right on schedule, but when the time came for Piper to make his move he was too wrapped up in his TV show to do it. He got into the Cyndi Lauper thing, then the feud with Snuka, and before you knew it the year was over. As successful as Piper appears to be, on the inside he's crying because he and only he failed to carry out his game plan. In the new year he will make many promises but you can be rest assured that he only wants one thing: to become world champion! The entire management thing and his "Piper's Pit" were just a smoke screen to help him get the belt. If he wants to accomplish this, he's got to stop playing around so much and head right towards the goal: Hulk Hogan!"

Piper has the Kid reeling from a Sleeper Hold.

With that the big man took out a Cyndi Lauper tape, put it in his walkman and strolled out of the room.

Quite an interesting theory about a controversial man. One thing is for sure, Roddy Piper provided a tremendous amount of excitement and controversy in 1984 and it definitely appears that the Rowdy One, Roddy Piper has plenty more in store for 1985. Watch out, Roddy Piper just may make history in 1985. □

color photo by George Napolitano

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BO

TEXAS LONG RIDERS

color photo by George Napolitano

SHOOTING FOR #1

by George Napolitano

The Texas Long Riders, Cowboy Ron Bass and Big Black Bart and their ever present side kick J.J. Dillon have really been making their presence felt in the Mid Atlantic area. Before appearing in the Mid Atlantic Bass and Bart along with the notorious Dillon ran rough shod over everyone in the Sunshine State. While in Florida this tandem held the Florida tag team title in addition Bass himself owned the Southern Heavyweight title and the Florida championship. During this time Bass feuded with the "Family", Blackjack Mulligan, Dusty Rhodes and Barry Windham and their feud was never resolved.

Now Bass, along with Bart and Dillon are together again and doing their thing in the south. Ironically Bass's arch enemy, Dusty Rhodes is also in the area. While Bass and Bart own the Mid Atlantic title, Dusty and his partner Manny Fernandez are the NWA World's tag team champions. These two teams are on a collision course and there will only be one survivor. "No matter where I go I run into that fat slob, Dusty Rhodes", Bass fumed. "He has followed me all over the country but no matter where we've been I've kicked his butt. You think the fool would have learned by now not to mess in my affairs but he's a stubborn idiot. Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. It's just that sooner or later that poor excuse for a wrestler will get seriously hurt and when this happens he'll have no one to blame but himself. I've warned him and now he's going to suffer the consequences. Black Bart and I are going to make mince meat out of him and his taco bending buddy Manny Fernandez. They have what we want and it's only matter of time before we get it."

The Long Riders, Cowboy Ron Bass and Black Bart.

Black Bart puts the squeeze on his opponent.

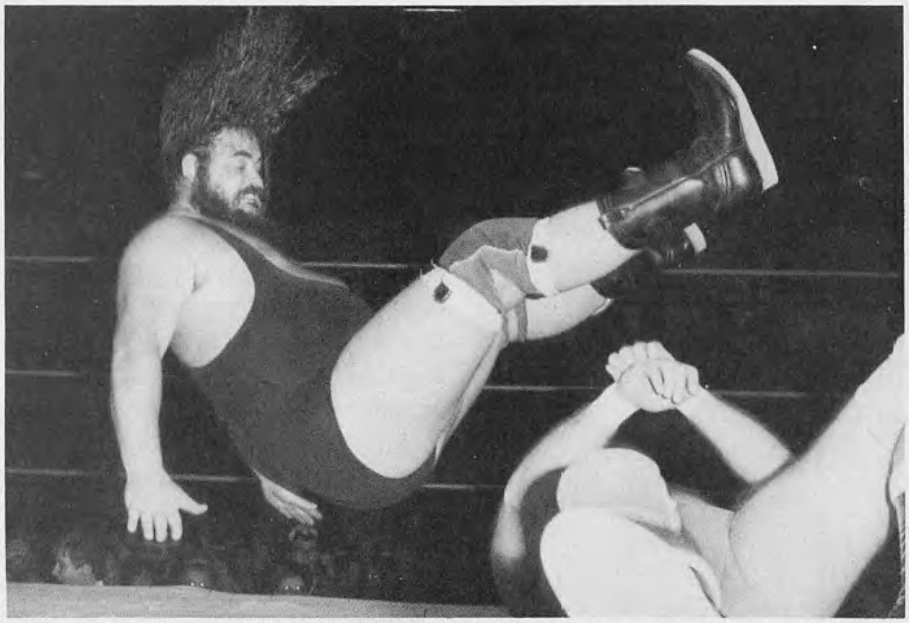
Ron Bass and Back Bart are an exceptional tag team combination. Although many do not approve of their roughhouse sadistical style, these two cowboys can wrestle when they want to, but they prefer to use illegal tactics and means to get the job done. "After the victory is recorded in the record books, it's history", Bass exclaimed. "No one remembers how you won, all that matters is if you won and you won't find too many losses next to my name in the record book. I've been a winner my entire career and this is the way it's going to stay. If you or anyone else for that matter don't like the way Bart and I do things it's just too bad. We've been successful despite having to deal with partial referees and prejudiced promoters. Nobody can keep us down."

Although the Mid Atlantic tag team title is an important title the Long Riders are not satisfied. They feel they are the number one team in the sport and they are determined to prove this to the world. "It's a shame that a team as incompetent as Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez have the World's tag team belts," J.J. Dillon lamented. "I'm sorry to say this but these two men are a disgrace to my great profession. Dusty Rhodes looks like a Jack LaLanne reject while his partner Manny Fernandez is an illiterate, ille-

The victorious Long Riders exit with trophy and manager J.J. Dillon.

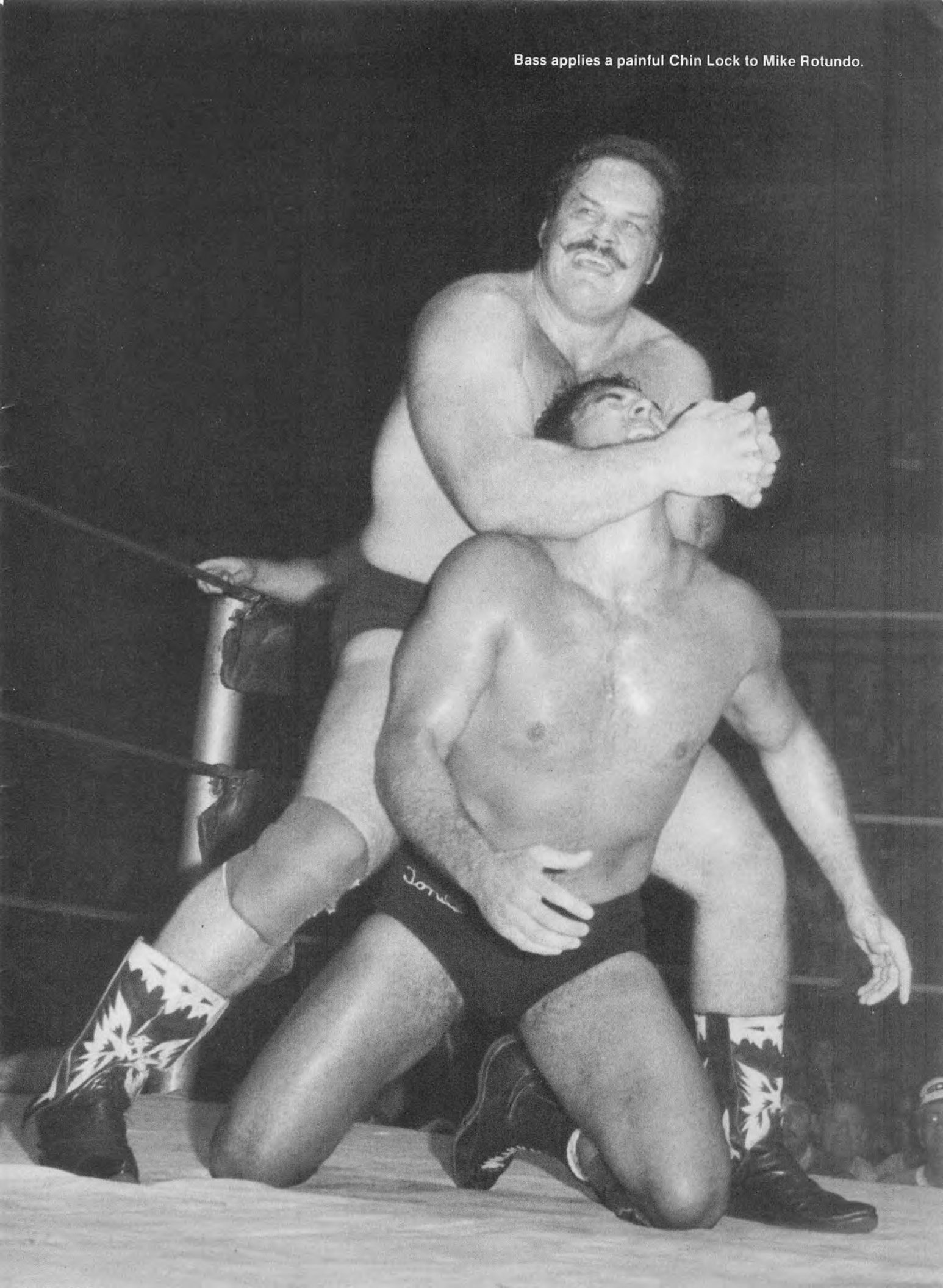
gal alien who should be deported back to Mexico. They don't have class, charisma or charm. Nor do they possess the mental and physical capabilities of my two great champions. In short, Rhodes and Fernandez have nothing going for themselves. How they've succeeded so far I'll never know but their success is about to end at the hands of my two great competitors. "I've been associated with many outstanding men in my career but Ron Bass and Black Bart are two of the finest men you'll ever meet anywhere. They are true champions. Individually they are great and together they are simply awesome. Watch them closely because it won't be long before they are the World's tag team champions."

J.J. Dillon is an excellent judge of talent. He's been the guiding force behind many successful wrestlers and he knows the business inside and out. With Dillon in their corner Cowboy Ron Bass and Black Bart are going to be tough to beat. In fact chances are excellent that it won't be long before the Long Riders are the NWA tag team champions. □



photos by Bill Otten

Bart come down hard and heavy.



Bass applies a painful Chin Lock to Mike Rotundo.

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

As compiled by Bruno Lauer

Ric Flair

National Wrestling Alliance (NWA)

NWA World Champion: Ric Flair—243—Minneapolis, MN
NWA United States Champion: Wahoo McDaniel—264—Midland, TX
NWA National Champion: Ronnie Garvin—235—Quebec, Canada
NWA Tag Team Champions: Dusty Rhodes & Manny Fernandez (combined)—569

CONTENDERS

1. "Outlaw" Ron Bass—285 lbs.—Pampa, TX—Mid-Atlantic Champion
2. Dusty Rhodes—306 lbs.—Austin, TX
3. Jesse Barr—243 lbs. Portland, Ore.—Florida Champion
4. Tully Blanchard—235 lbs.—San Antonio, TX—Television Champion
5. Kerry Von Erich—250 lbs.—Denton, TX
6. Gino Hernandez—225 lbs.—Houston, TX—American Champion
7. Bob Roop—275 lbs.—Tampa, FLA—Georgia Television Champion
8. Harley Race—263 lbs.—Kansas City, MO
9. Pez Whatley—238 lbs.—ElPaso, TX—Southern Champion
10. Rick Steamboat—235 lbs.—Honolulu, HI

Hulk Hogan

World Wrestling Federation (WWF)

WWF World Champion: Hulk Hogan—302 lbs.—Venice Beach, CAL
WWF Intercontinental Champion: Greg Valentine—244 lbs.—Seattle, Wash.
WWF Tag Team Champions: Dick Murdoch & Adrian Adonis (combined)—536 lbs.

CONTENDERS

1. "Big" John Studd—364 lbs.—L.A., Cal.
2. Brutus Beefcake—254 lbs.—parts unknown
3. Ken Patera—275 lbs.—Portand, Ore.
4. Paul Orndorff—225 lbs.—Tampa, FL
5. Junkyard Dog—260 lbs.—Charlotte, NC
6. Roddy Piper—230 lbs.—Glasgow, Scotland
7. Tony Atlas—250 lbs.—Roanoke, VA
8. Iron Sheik—262 lbs.—Tehran, Iran
9. Barry Windham—240 lbs.—Sweetwater, TX
10. David Sammartino—253 lbs.—Pittsburgh, PA

Rick Martel

American Wrestling Association (AWA)

AWA World Champion: Rick Martel—236 lbs.—Quebec City, Canada
AWA Light-Heavyweight Champion: Steve Regal—221—Ft. Lauerdale, FLA
AWA Tag Team Champions: Road Warriors (combined)—576

CONTENDERS

1. Jim Garvin—235 lbs.—Tampa, FLA
2. Mr. Saito—253 lbs.—Osaka, Japan
3. Billy Robinson—246 lbs.—England
4. Sgt. Slaughter—302 lbs.—Parris Island, SC
5. Jim Brunzell—225 lbs.—Minneapolis, MN
6. Jerry Blackwell—480 lbs.—Stone Mountain, GA
7. Nick Bockwinkle—245 lbs.—Beveraly Hills, Cal.
8. Larry Zbyszko—241 lbs.—Pittsburgh, PA
9. Steve 'O' Olsonoski—225 lbs.—Edina, MN
10. Greg Gagne—228 lbs.—Robinsdale, MN

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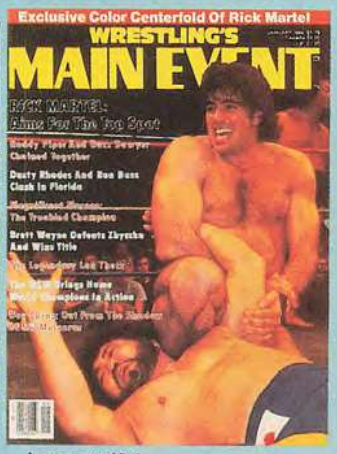

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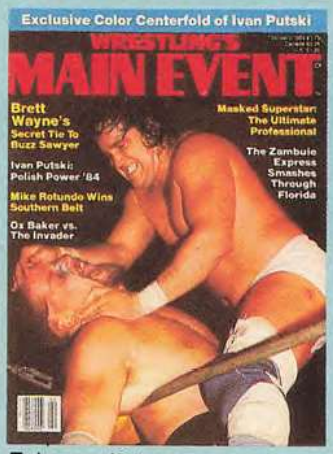

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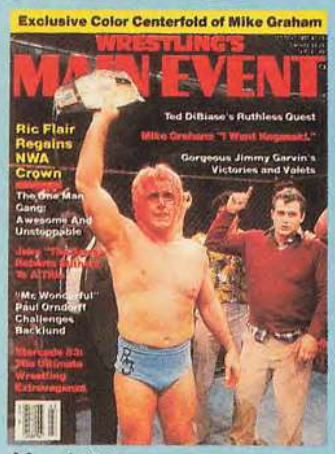

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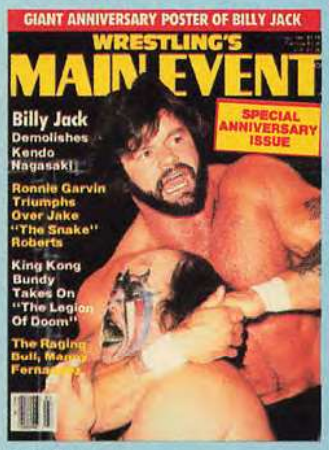

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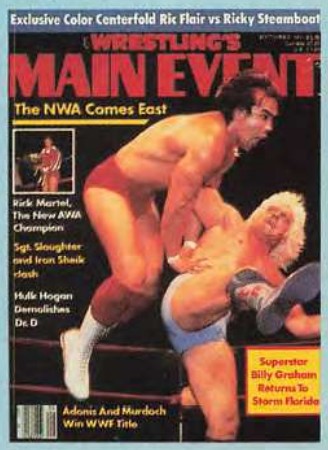

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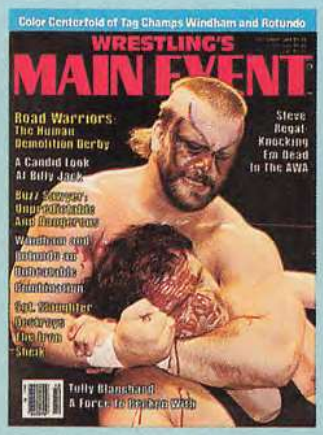

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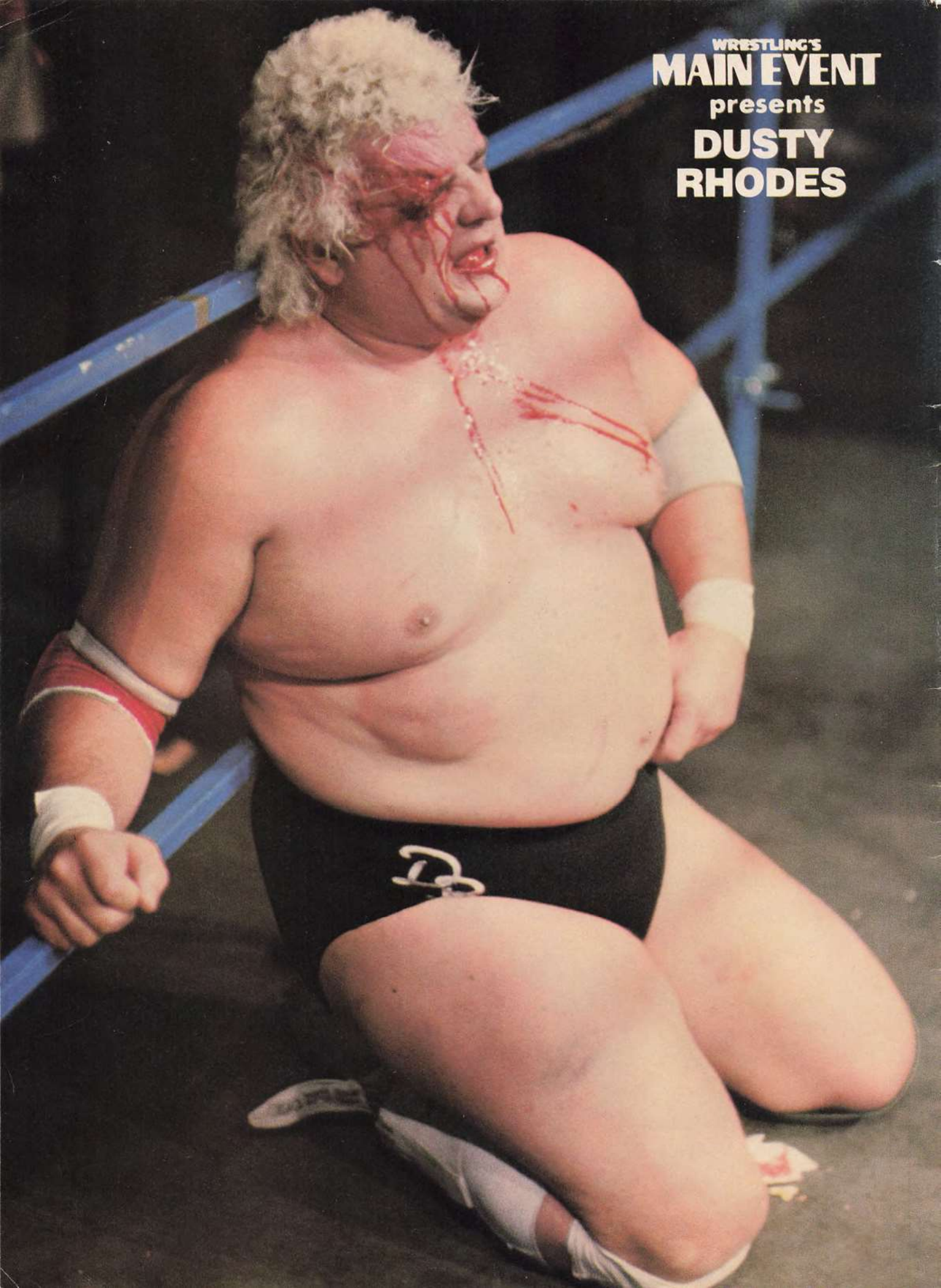

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